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Japan

Takeshita Holds Press Conference 4 January *OW041049 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT* 4 Jan 88

[Text] Ise, Mie Pref., Jan. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, paying a New Year's call on the Ise Shrine Monday, took a vague stance on several important issues facing his administration in 1988, including visits by government leaders to the Yasukuni Shrine, efforts to stabilize the skidding U.S. dollar and high land costs in urban regions.

In a press conference held at the Shinto Shrine, Takeshita ruled out the likelihood of an official visit to Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine to pay tribute to the nation's war dead "until the situation is ripe both in Japan and abroad."

On the economic front, the prime minister said that Japan, the United States and Western Europe would use market intervention and other methods to prevent the U.S. dollar from tumbling.

Turning to his upcoming visit to Washington in mid-January, Takeshita said he hopes to establish a personal relationship with President Ronald Reagan, and to hold talks on the recently concluded U.S.-Soviet treaty to eliminate short- and medium-range nuclear weapons, as well as on North-South problems in the Asian region.

The new prime minister, selected last October by then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone as successor to the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and head of government, said that while he supported visits by government officials to the Yasukuni Shrine during memorial services, he himself would wait until the time was appropriate.

Controversy over visits by government leaders to the Yasukuni Shrine, promoted as a national symbol by the Japanese military government up to and during the Pacific war, have flared up several times in the past, particularly after reports surfaced in 1979 that seven war criminals are collectively enshrined there.

Nakasone refrained from calling on the shrine after China and other neighboring Asian nations strongly protested his August 15, 1984 visit to attend a ceremony marking the 39th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Takeshita, queried on his visit to the Ise Shrine in the company of a record 13 cabinet ministers, pointed out that government leaders and members of their cabinet have often visited the shrine as a group in the postwar period. He did not stipulate whether he was visiting in his official capacity as prime minister or as a private citizen.

He added that compared to the Yasukuni Shrine, a visit to the Ise Shrine, where the mythical founding gods of the imperial family are said to be enshrined, would not arouse the same degree of protest from China and other nations.

In the wake of a yearend stock market slump brought on by the dollar's plunge on world markets, Takeshita said that by implementing flexible financial policies it would be possible to sustain growth without bringing on inflation.

The prime minister said that as agreed in the recent joint declaration, the G-7 (Group of Seven) trading nations would coordinate market interventions and other methods to prevent a further decline in the value of the U.S. currency.

Turning to the high cost of real estate in Tokyo and other major urban centers, Takeshita said he would determine what legal action is necessary to solve the problem, which has been pinpointed as a major domestic issue.

Takeshita Dodges Demand for Tax Cut *OW250800 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT* 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita Thursday dodged opposition demands for a large tax cut next year, officials said.

Takeshita, accompanied by Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, met successively with opposition party leaders at his office to discuss the 56,699.7 billion yen budget for fiscal 1988.

Japan Socialist Party leader Takako Doi urged Takeshita to dissolve the House of Representatives if he does not honor a government promise not to introduce a large indirect tax.

The leader of the No. 1 opposition party called for a 1 trillion yen income tax cut and a sharp reduction in inheritance taxes during the next fiscal year.

Takeshita replied he had no intention of dissolving the house. Miyazawa told Doi that he will study an income tax cut after sweeping reforms of Japan's taxation system, the officials said.

The prime minister failed to commit himself to Doi's request to keep Japan's defense spending to below 1 percent of gross national production.

Takeshita promised to study other JSP requests to extend help to foreign students in Japan to provide land lots and buildings to foreign embassies, the officials said.

Junya Yano, head of the No. 2 opposition Komeito, joined Doi in demanding a large income tax reduction.

He also urged the government to drop its plan to install an over-the-horizon radar and buy a high-powered destroyer equipped with the Aegis missile defense system.

Takeshita, however, failed to respond to Yano's request clearly, the officials said.

Takeshita later met with Saburo Tsukamoto, leader of the Democratic Socialist Party, Hiromu Murakami, Presidium Chairman of the Japan Communist Party, and Satsuki Eda, leader of the minor opposition Shaminren.

Plan To Import American Delicacies Reported
OW251334 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT
25 Dec 87

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—In a fresh bid to reduce its trade surplus with the United States, Japan will use its 23,000 postal offices to deliver American specialties starting next April, officials said Friday.

The program is called "Furusato in USA, America Yu Pak," endorsed by new Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita who champions the creation of a new "furusato" or hometown in Japan.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) will officially announce next month the launching of the Yu Pak program, KYODO News Service has learned.

Officials familiar with the program hinted that Prime Minister Takeshita may outline the program in his talks with President Ronald Reagan in Washington next month.

"It will help increase imports of goods from the United States and reduce Japan-U.S. trade tensions," an MPT official said.

Supporting the unique scheme is the 38-member American State Offices Association (ASOA) Japan which says it can pass on the benefits of the strong yen directly to Japanese consumers.

Sources said Alaska, California, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New York, Oregon and Washington have come up with local delicacies for the program arranged by Japan Tele Soft Corp.

The specialties include smoked salmon sets from Alaska, oranges and mixed nuts from California, Boston tuna and lobsters from Maine, dungeness crabs from Washington and Oregon and cheese cakes from New York.

"It's a good indication of the cooperative spirit that exists between American state offices in Japan and the Japanese Government—in this case the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications," said ASOA President Mitsugi (Jack) Yamashita, South Carolina's representative in Tokyo.

Officials said the U.S. Embassy here is also expected to extend its assistance to the project which is being inaugurated at a time when Japan, endowed with the world's richest surplus funds, is gradually becoming a nation of "gourmets" in quest of delicacies around the globe.

Those wishing to participate in the program will pay an annual membership fee of about 30,000 yen via 23,000 post offices across Japan, officials said.

Hideaki Kaneko, president of Japan Tele Soft, said he expects about 50,000 to 100,000 people to sign on for the Furusato Yu Pak.

An official said Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. and All Nippon Airways have expressed their readiness to chip in for the program, although it is not immediately clear how they will be involved in the project.

All Nippon Airways currently operates flights to Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles.

Business Leaders View 1988 Budget
OW241445 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT
23 Dec 87

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—Japanese business leaders displayed mixed reactions Wednesday to the Finance Ministry's fiscal 1988 national budget program.

A random survey of business leaders revealed that a majority of them feel the new budget plan is not sufficient to spur domestic demand and change Japan's export-led growth.

Yutaka Takeda, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, praised the draft budget as having met the two basic objectives of stimulating domestic demand and balancing the budget.

"But I cannot help but say that it is insufficient to promote a change of the Japanese economy to a domestic demand-oriented one," added Takeda, chairman of Nippon Steel.

Rokuro Ishikawa, the new leader of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the budget program, drawn up by the cost-conscious Finance Ministry, would not do enough to expand the Japanese economy.

He said the chamber wants the government to give more help to smaller enterprises which have been hard-hit by the strong yen.

Tomio Tatsuno, president of Marubeni Corp., a giant trading house, expressed the hope that the government will follow up the budget program with a large-scale supplementary budget to boost public sector investment.

Hajime Sako, chairman of the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors, Inc., said he wants Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to implement an "aggressive and continuing" fiscal policy aimed at expanding public works spending.

The chairman of Sumitomo Bank, Ichiro Isoda, warned that the government should not drop a long-standing plan to balance the budget.

Katsushige Mita, chairman of the Electronic Industries Association of Japan, said he expects the new budget to clearly reflect Japan's resolve to contribute to the international community through an increase in official development aid and other measures.

A more severe verdict was given by Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, who said bluntly that the new budget program would not help restructure the Japanese economy or do anything to improve living standards.

Miyazawa Pleased With Draft Budget Aims
*OW240547 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT
23 Dec 87*

[By Sei Ogawa]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa now appears confident of continuing Japan's pump-priming measures to fulfill its international commitment to expand domestic demand and reduce the nation's growing trade surplus.

Caught in the middle of compiling the draft budget for fiscal 1988 Tuesday evening to early Wednesday, Miyazawa was partially preoccupied with finalizing a statement by the Group of Seven (G-7) major nations calling for policy coordination and exchange rate stability.

Miyazawa told a press conference after issuing the G-7 statement Wednesday that Japan is doing all it can to strengthen domestic demand.

Miyazawa was visibly pleased with the fiscal 1988 draft budget approved at cabinet meeting Wednesday, saying it would expand domestic demand while ending Japan's budgetary dependence on deficit-covering bonds by fiscal 1990.

Miyazawa sounded the same note in announcing the austere draft bud for fiscal 1987, which marked the smallest year-on-year increase since fiscal 1955 when the budget was cut by 0.8 percent from the preceding year.

The government's fiscal goal of not issuing deficit-covering bonds fiscal 1990 was met with skepticism as critics cited the Japanese proverb "running after two hares but catching neither" to describe the budget plan.

The draft budget for fiscal 1988, starting next April, was a turnaround from the original tight budget for fiscal 1987 by marking the largest year-on-year increase in the general account in six years.

The budget plan, which calls for a near 20 percent increase in public works-related spending, estimated outlays of 56,699.7 billion yen in the general account, up 4.8 percent from the original budget for fiscal 1987.

The government made an official prediction of attaining a real gross national product (GNP) growth of 3.8 percent in the next fiscal year, with domestic demand contributing more than 4.7 percent of the growth while external demand would contribute minus 1 percent.

The official projection, however, is based on an optimistic assumption that Japan's current account surplus would be reduced by 10 billion dollars in fiscal 1988 to 72 billion dollars.

There were two "divine winds" enabling a nearly 20 percent rise in public works spending in the next fiscal year.

The one is income from a sell-off of government-held stocks of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) and the other is a sharp increase in tax revenues reflecting the recent business expansion likely to continue next year.

The government added some 4,910.5 billion yen to special account from selling 1.95 million NTT issues in the second auction last month and decided to use 1.3 trillion yen of the revenues for domestic demand expansion projects in fiscal 1988.

Miyazawa said he decided to use the funds from NTT stock sales on spending for public works and interest-free loans for private business as part of Japan's efforts for international policy coordination.

Miyazawa is expected to be busy in "restoration" negotiations with his counterparts in the Takeshita cabinet until next Monday to compile a final government budget plan to be submitted to the Diet.

He may also attend a meeting of the G-7 nations—the U.S., Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada—early in the coming year if the major nations see a necessity to hold one to stabilize foreign exchange rates.

Red Army Issues Retaliatory Statement
*OW041053 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT
4 Jan 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 4 KYODO—Japan's radical leftist Red Army has indicated it will retaliate for the recent arrest by Japanese authorities of its No. 2 leader Osamu Maruoka.

In a letter dated November 26 and mailed from the Middle East, the Red Army statement said it will not condone the Japanese police arrest of "Comrade Maruoka."

The letter was sent to a bookstore owner in Tokyo.

Authorities interpreted the statement to mean that the Red Army will take some kind of retaliatory action—such as holding someone hostage to gain Maruoka's release.

Maruoka was released from prison in exchange for kidnapped passengers aboard a Japan Air Lines jetliner at Dhaka in September 1977.

He was arrested shortly after sneaking back into Japan last November 21 with a passport bearing another person's name.

Authorities have since indicted him on charges of possessing a forged passport and on crimes related to the 1977 hijacking incident.

The 1,170-word statement denounced the arrest of the 37-year-old Maruoka and added that the Red Army will "certainly (help) Maruoka clear his regret (for being held under custody)."

It also noted that the Red Army's "enemy" claimed Maruoka had returned to Japan to prepare for terrorist activities to disrupt South Korea's presidential election on December 16 and the upcoming summer Olympic games in Seoul.

The statement termed the claim a "frame up."

Mongolia

Batmonh's Gives New Year's Message
*OW021418 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English
0905 GMT 1 Jan 88*

[Text] Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and president of the Mongolian People's Republic, addressed the Mongolian people at the New Year of 1988. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Batmonh in Mongolian, fading into English translation] First of all, I would like to convey New Year greetings to the entire Mongolian people and experts of the Soviet Union and of the socialist countries

who [words indistinct] on Mongolian soil, said the Mongolian leader. On the eve of the New Year, every country, work collective, and every individual takes stock of the work done, and maps out the path for the New Year.

For the Mongolian people, 1987 had been an year of creative endeavor in implementing the decisions of the 19th party congress and [words indistinct] the second year of the 8th 5-year period of Mongolia's social economic development. Despite some difficulties, the country's economic potentials grew and strengthened, thanks to the selfless labor of the Mongolian people and the fraternal friendship and the multifaceted cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

The party's (?plan) on improving the living and cultural standards of the people were successfully met, said Jambyn Batmonh. In 1987 peoples of the socialist countries and the entire world [word indistinct] solemnly marked the 70 years of the Great October Socialist Revolution—the major event of our era. This historic anniversary has become an eloquent proof of the vitality and the revolutionizing nature of the Great October. The policies of restructuring currently on the way in the Soviet Union is the direct continuation of the October Revolution, and is the proof of the capacity of socialism to become more perfect, of its huge and inexhaustible reserves, and exposes its prospects for progress. Nineteen eighty-seven was replete with historic events that promoted detente, disarmament, and the removal of the nuclear war danger. The Soviet-American summit meeting in Washington and the signing of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty were a triumph for the new political thinking and a real move toward disarmament. Here, I would like to note, continued the Mongolian leader, the active and consistent efforts of the Soviet Communist Party and Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev in creating such a positive tendency in international relations.

Peace-loving Mongolia, together with the Soviet Union, and other socialist countries, and the entire world progressives will further make efforts to consolidate peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. The Mongolian people believe that, in 1988, fresh and impressive moves will be made to strengthen the positive tendencies in world politics, continue the (?Soviet-U.S.) meetings, positively following the issue of the proposed 50% cut-back in strategic offensive armaments, [words indistinct] for other types of armaments, and expanding of international cooperation.

Touching upon the internal economic issues, the Mongolian leader said that the 19th party congress outlined large-scale social and economic tasks and development of socialist democracy and openness, perfecting the planning and economic mechanism, strengthening cost accounting, switching over to new economic methods of management, raising the efficiency of national economy,

developing of livestock breeding, implementing the complex of food program, and improving the cultural standards of the population. The decision of the third and fourth party plenary meetings held in June and December last year, and the measures being taken within their framework will be conducive to realizing these objectives. The Mongolian people warmly welcome these measures and are fully determined to implement them, said Jambyn Batmonh.

The first moves being made today on developing democracy and openness, promoting social and political activity of the working people and streamlining planning and management are the ('part and parcel) of the restructure of Mongolia's social and economic life. Nineteen eighty-eight is the decisive year in the Mongolian social and economic development planned for 1986-90. Starting this year, Mongolian industrial and business organizations will switch over to the new system of planning and management and take positive action toward expanding the economy and consistently implementing into life the cost accounting system.

Improvement of the efficiency and the quality of production will be the chief objectives of all enterprises and the entire Mongolian people. These are the decisive factors of the successful implementation of the tasks and [words indistinct] Mongolia's economic development and social production. The fourth plenum meeting of the party's central committee held in december considered widely important issues of developing agriculture and improving living and cultural standards of the rural population and the top priority task of today is to ensure the safe maintaining of livestock and make good preparations for raising young livestock without unproductive losses. For this purpose, it is imperative to mobilize the efforts of the entire working people by way of making the utmost utilization of the industrial and spiritual potentialities, labor, and the material resources of the country.

In conclusion, the Mongolian leader expressed the confidence that the working people of Mongolia will successfully carry out the planned tasks for 1988 and thus create the reliable bases for the fulfillment of the Eighth 5-Year Plan as a whole and make a worthy contribution to the prosperity of the country as a common effort for universal peace.

Batmonh, Sodnom Receive Foreign Diplomats
OW011247 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1440 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 31 Dec (MONTSAME)—The heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Ulaanbaatar today paid a call on Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium, and Dumaagiyn Sodnom, chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers, and greeted them on the New Year.

Comrade J. Batmonh and Li Juqing, dean of the diplomatic corps in Ulaanbaatar and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to the MPR, exchanged greetings.

Comrade J. Batmonh said: The year of 1987 was intense, and it inspired labor from our people. Despite difficulties, significant successes in socialist construction and in the process of its perfection were achieved. As before, of decisive significance in this was the multifaceted assistance and support of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. [Words indistinct] noticeable progress in our international efforts.

It can be said with good reason that the past year was rich in events of a historic nature.

The jubilee activities on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution once again demonstrated the growing international prestige of real socialism and added impetus to the theoretical and philosophical understanding of the nature of the present age.

It is not coincidental that the first step, a turning step it can be said, toward nuclear disarmament, decreasing the threat of a nuclear catastrophe, and improving the international climate were taken during this notable year. The world community perceived the important results of the USSR-U.S. summit meeting held at the beginning of this concluding month, with which we are all familiar, with great approval and growing hope.

(?We) understand that all peoples and governments (?will have to) increase efforts in order to affirm and develop these first sprouts so that the coming year will become a year of further successes in the struggle for a nuclear-free, a violence-free, and a just world.

The MPR will continue to invariably pursue a course aimed at deepening relations of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation with the countries of the socialist community, at developing friendly [words indistinct] strengthening an atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding, and the cause of peace, security, and social progress of peoples.

Ulaanbaatar Notes Increase in Japan's Defense Budget
OW310541 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English
0905 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Japanese cabinet ministers on Wednesday approved the draft military budget for the 1988 fiscal year. Similarly like in 1987, allocations for war purposes overlap the limit of 1 percent of the GNP, which until now had been checking the buildup of the military might of Japan.

The first to ignore this limit was the previous Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who distinguished himself as a fervent advocate of military preparations. Noboru Takeshita, the new prime minister who succeeded Nakasone, at first showed restraint on the matter. He had to reckon with not only the growing peace sentiments inside Japan itself, which also promoted the recent Soviet-U.S. summit, but also [words indistinct] of ASEAN member countries.

To lessen the widespread apprehension in these countries through the turning of Japan into a powerful military power, the leaders of the ASEAN countries at their recent summit in Manila were alarmed at the growing military standing of Japan in the process of its rearmament. [sentence as heard] It appears that official Tokyo, which has called on ASEAN countries to a new partnership, must act now and take into consideration these sentiments of the nations in the Asia-Pacific region and put them into practical policy. But the reverse of this has happened.

The draft of the new Japanese budget envisions further growth in military expenditures which will be ¥3,678.6 billion or by 5.4% more than in the current fiscal. And this means that for the second consecutive year these expenditures top the limit on military spending adopted by the previous government and is further evidence (?they renounce) the defensive policy of Japan. The Japanese military department, to all evidence, intends to sharply build up the muscles of the Japanese Armed Forces in the current military 5-year period. The number of P-3C antisubmarine planes is expected to increase from 29 to 79, that of the F-15 fighter-bombers from 86 to 149. Senator John Rockefeller, speaking in the American Congress on Japan's military policies, noted that the growth rate of military spending in Japan in the past 5 years was 5.6 percent, that is twice more than the similar (?figures) of the NATO countries which was 1.8 percent. In the number of its Air Force Japan has considerably more than the U.S. Air Force in Asia, and the Japanese Navy is almost one-half of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

Japan has already committed itself to assure the actions of the U.S. Armed Forces outside the borders of Japan. Based on this statement, the Japanese paper MAINICHI has concluded that Japan has already become a major military power. Even THE JAPAN TIMES, a paper close to the foreign policy department circles, notes that the decision to ignore the 1-percent ceiling on military spending is appraised in history as the first move toward turning Japan into a major power of the Western bloc which would no longer be controlled by its own Constitution.

At the meeting of the leaders of ASEAN, the Japanese prime minister gave assurances that Japan will never in the future become a military power. It is quite difficult to combine this promise with the past few moves of the Japanese Government. It is clear for all to see.

North Korea

Kim Il-song Gives New Year's Address

SK010847 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0834 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 1 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, delivered a new year address for 1988.

Follows the full text of the new year address: Dear comrades, my fellow countrymen, brothers and sisters,

We have seen out one fruitful year while engaged in a valiant struggle for creation and construction to bring prosperity to the country, and are seeing in the new year, 1988, full of new hopes and confidence.

Greeting the new year which will shine with victory and glory, I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to all the people in the northern half of the republic, to the brothers in the South, and to my compatriots in Japan and in all other lands abroad.

Last year our people worked hard and succeeded in carrying out the tasks for the first year of the third seven-year plan for achieving the ten long-term objectives, the magnificent programme of socialist economic construction which was adopted by the sixth congress of our party.

Last year we set the strategic task of economic construction, the task of strengthening the material and technical foundations to reach the major objectives of the key industries and provide a full solution to the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people, and concentrated our efforts on capital construction.

Under the leadership of the party, our people displayed unparalleled heroism and performed shining labour exploits on the first leg of their advance under the new plan for grand socialist construction and made a breakthrough in its implementation. Thus, they marked 1987 as a glorious year of praiseworthy successes.

Last year, in order to attain the target of electricity which is most important in carrying out the third seven-year plan, our power-station constructors carried out the difficult project to cut a 40-kilometre-long waterway tunnel through rugged mountains and finished the first-stage work of building the gigantic Songwon Dam with success. By doing this, they made a decisive advance in the construction of the Taechon power station. They also pressed ahead with the construction of the Wiwon power station and the Suncheon thermal power station and with the third-stage work for the Sodusu power station. In addition, they worked on the most important and difficult part of the project for the construction of the Kumgangsán Power Station which will be the largest of

all our hydroelectric power stations, and accelerated the construction of the Nyongwon power station, Namgang power station and many other large and small ones.

Last year we concentrated efforts on the construction of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex, the large chemical industry complex which is essential in strengthening the independence of our national economy and in improving the material and cultural standards of the people. We also undertook the construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex, a powerful light metal production centre. The workers who are building the Sunchon Vinalon Complex worked successfully on the enormous project by displaying an unbreakable fighting spirit and at last got the first carbide kiln going.

The constructors in the Tanchon area completed the projects for the extension of the Tanchon magnesite factory and for the construction of the Unsong crushing and screening plant by making collective innovations in response to the militant call of the party. As a result, the magnesite-clinker production capacity was raised to two million-ton level, and the first-stage work of building the Tanchon smelter, a major nonferrous metal production centre, was finished.

By displaying mass heroism, the young people who are laying the railway in the northern region built virtually all the facilities for the whole section of the railway linking the eastern and western regions and opened the section which covers a distance of 100 kilometres. This was a great contribution to the efforts to exploit the mineral resources in this area and to easing the strain on transport in our country.

The people who are building Kwangbok Street sped up the difficult and complex project for large-scale construction, upholding the honour of building the capital city, and thus added a brilliant chapter to the history of the construction of the capital.

Last year our heroic working class and all the other working people built many monumental structures of lasting value by displaying patriotic devotion and creative enthusiasm. They also made valuable successes on all fronts of socialist construction, successes which will contribute to the prosperity and development of the country and to the promotion of the people's well-being. We may well be proud of these achievements with great confidence and honour.

All this brilliant success in the building of socialism was possible because our party members and other working people strove valiantly, overcoming every difficulty and obstacle, firmly convinced that they would always emerge victorious when they were armed firmly with the chuche idea and the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle and followed the leadership of the

party. The high rate of such large-scale capital construction we undertook in a single year was also due to the fact that our people had built a socialist independent national economy by working hard under the party's leadership.

I highly estimate the labour feats performed by our working people and the soldiers of the People's Army in the course of grand construction to attain the high targets of the third seven-year plan, and extend my warmest thanks to the workers, farmers, working intellectuals and all the other people who have worked devotedly on every front of socialist construction in support of party policy.

The year 1988 is a year of great significance which marks the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic.

This year we must bring about another great upswing in all fields of socialist construction and ensure that our republic which has risen to a high level as a socialist state that has become independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence, by overcoming many-fold difficulties and trials, will demonstrate its might to the whole world and celebrate its 40th anniversary as a grand festival of victors.

The central task facing us in socialist construction this year is to add greater momentum to the grand project which is already making long strides.

First of all, we must continue to direct great effort to the projects for expanding and strengthening the technical foundations for production in the power industry, coal mining, metallurgy and other key industries. This is the way to increase the great capabilities of our socialist independent national economy and push forward the whole construction work to reach the ten long-term objectives of economic construction.

The power industry must complete, within the first half of the year, the construction of the Taechon and Wiwor power stations and the Sunchon thermal power station and the third-stage work of the Sodusu power station, which are now under way, to create a capacity of generating at least 1.2 million KVA, and press on with the construction of the Kumgangsan, Nyongwon, Hui-chon, Namgang and Kumyagang power stations.

The coal-mining industry must reconstruct or expand on a large scale the coal mines in the Anju and Sunchon areas and in the northern and other areas where there are large deposits, and open up new coal mines so as to increase coal output markedly.

The metallurgical industry must complete the second stage expansion project of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex within the first quarter of the year and build a new steel plant with a capacity of 2 million tons in the Chollima Steel Complex, which will feed on domestic raw materials and fuel. It must also undertake an audacious project to develop the Musan Mining Complex, which is rich in deposits, into a modern, large-scale

centre for the production of iron-ore concentrate so that it can acquire the capacity of 10 million tons during the next few years and then the capacity of 15 million tons on a long-term basis.

Developing the chemical and light industries and accelerating construction to provide an adequate solution to the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people are the major area which requires our concentrated efforts in socialist construction today.

This year, too, we must concentrate on the construction of the Sunchon Vinalon complex and the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex. When the Sunchon Vinalon Complex has been built, it will annually produce one million tons of carbide, 750,000 tons of methanol, 100,000 tons of vinalon, 900,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer, 250,000 tons of vinyl chloride, 250,000 tons of caustic soda, 400,000 tons of sodium carbonate and various other chemicals, and 300,000 tons of protein feed. If we finish the construction of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex and deal annually with 3 million tons of potassium feldspar abundantly deposited in the Chongdan area, we shall be able to produce 510,000 tons of potassic fertilizer, 420,000 tons of alumina and at least 10 million tons of cement.

The soldiers of the People's Army and all the people who are constructing the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and the Sariwon potassic fertilizer COMplex must ensure the quality of the construction and finish the projects on time by fully displaying loyalty to the party and the revolution and their heroic fighting spirit and thus see that the far-reaching plan of our party for the country's prosperity and the people's welfare becomes a reality as soon as possible.

The builders of Kwangbok Street and other important structures in Pyongyang must finish construction ahead of schedule while building them as best as possible so that Pyongyang becomes a more magnificent and beautiful modern city.

If we are to provide successfully for the grand construction work being undertaken throughout the country and develop transport in step with the ever-increasing production, we must radically increase the capacity of transport by concentrating great efforts on the railways which are in the forefront of the national economy.

The important way of increasing the capacity of the railways at present is, to electrify them and provide them with heavy-duty equipment. We must finish the electrification of the sections which are yet to be electrified and produce great many 8-axle electric locomotives and 100-ton goods wagons so as to enable the railways to perform heavy-duty service as soon as possible.

The theses on the socialist rural question advanced by our party is a programme that shows the absolutely correct way of building socialist rural communities. It is

our party's unshakable determination to complete within the next few years the four major tasks of the rural technical revolution—irrigation, electrification, mechanization and widespread use of chemicals—the tasks set by the theses. In continued adherence to the agriculture-first policy of our party, we must produce large numbers of tractors, lorries and modern farm machinery that suit our situation, as well as various kinds of chemical fertilizers for the country areas while launching an all-people movement to establish the sprinkler irrigation system for 500,000 hectares of dry fields, the project to bring irrigation to a new higher stage and make it complete. In addition, we must push forward tideland reclamation and the movement to obtain new land so as to increase the cultivated area. Fully aware of being the masters who are responsible for the granary of the country, the senior agricultural officials and the farmers must cultivate crops by the *chuche*-farming method and effect a new turn in agricultural production this year. The tasks in socialist construction this year are honourable in that they are aimed at opening up bright prospects for the successful implementation of the third seven-year plan and for the radical improvement of the people's livelihood. Carrying out this year's tasks successfully is not only important in hastening the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the republic, but will greatly inspire the fighting South Korean people and clearly show the validity and vitality of the *chuche* idea to the world's progressive people who are building an independent, new life.

The three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural—constitute the general line that our party must always adhere to in building socialism and communism. This year, too, we must continue to press ahead with these revolutions under the unfurled banner of the *chuche* idea.

The success in socialist construction depends on how the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative initiative of the popular masses, the subject of revolution, are mobilized. We should keep to the *chongsanri* spirit and *chongsanri* method the effectiveness of which has been verified through practical life, and carry forward the *taean* work system, their embodiment. All sectors and all units of the national economy must apply the system and method of *chuche*-oriented socialist economic management that accord with the natural requirement of the socialist system and the situation in our country so as to strengthen the collective leadership of the party committee and implement the mass line. In this way we shall give full scope to the superiority of the socialist system and bring about continual upswing and innovations in production and construction.

The tasks facing us this year are enormous. But we have all possibilities to carry them out successfully. Our people are a tempered, seasoned and heroic people. They have traversed the road of victory, surmounting all the difficulties and trials under the leadership of our party.

All the party members and other working people must advance vigorously, rallied closely behind the party and displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, with confidence in victory and revolutionary optimism. Thus, they will achieve another miraculous success which will amaze the world in all fields of socialist construction and demonstrate the revolutionary stamina of *chuche* Korea.

The year 1987 was a year when the struggle for peace and peaceful national reunification was intensive in the North and the South of our country.

In order to ease the tension in Korea and to create a phase favourable for the peaceful reunification, our party and government of the republic, true to the noble ideas of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, proposed high-level political and military talks between north and south. Last year we made a proposal for phased disarmament and a five-point proposal for national unity, and worked hard to implement them.

Throughout last year the people from all walks of life in South Korea fought determinedly to end the military fascist dictatorship which had lasted for almost 30 years under the aegis of the United States and to win social democracy and independence as well as peaceful national reunification.

In these days of heroic struggles ranging from the struggle against the fascist "April 13 Measure" to the June popular resistance, the workers struggle from July to September and the struggle in December for the termination of military rule, the South Korean people fully demonstrated their strong desire for independence, democracy and reunification and their indefatigable fighting spirit and dealt a heavy blow at the military dictatorship which is backed by the United States. In particular, in the "presidential election" held recently in South Korea, 12 million people, far exceeding the majority of voters, clearly expressed their will rejecting prolonged military rule and demanding a civilian government, and showed that no one could ignore this powerful fighting force.

I extend high respect to the people of all sections, particularly the workers, peasants, young people, students and intellectuals and to the patriotic democrats in South Korea who recorded a glorious page in their history of the liberation struggle by the courageous anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle in defiance of the harsh military fascist system.

In spite of the desire of the overwhelming majority of the people to abolish military rule and establish civilian government, the military fascist dictatorship is still reigning over the people in South Korea, and what they call a "change of regime" will give them no hope and expectations whatsoever. Experience proves once again that so long as colonial rule by the United States over

South Korea continues, the people's demand for democracy and their desire for social change will not be met. The South Korean people must draw a lesson from this state of affairs. In order to shape their own destiny by their united struggle, they must press on with the cause of anti-fascist democracy and of national reunification, putting forward the slogan of anti-U.S. independence.

Today, the most pressing task of all the Korean people is to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The ardent desire of the whole nation for the country's reunification is irresistible, and the just policy and sincere efforts of our party and the government of our republic to reunify the country enjoy stronger support and sympathy of the peoples at home and abroad than ever before.

The international situation as a whole shows a sign of gradual relaxation and the voice of the world peace-loving people who wish the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is growing louder with each passing day.

The degree of accelerating the country's reunification depends entirely on the joint effort made by the north and the south, the direct parties to the question of reunification.

If the country is to be reunified independently and peacefully, it is most urgent that the north and the south have an attitude and willingness to become reconciled and united with each other.

By nature, the question of national reunification is not a matter of who will conquer whom or who will be conquered, nor is it a question of one side overpowering and winning supremacy over the other; it is the question of achieving unity between the north and the south which make up one nation of the same stock. As historical experience shows, if both sides distrust each other in confrontation and seek division, no success will be expected even though they hold frequent talks, and worse still, if they aim to win by the use of strength the question of reunification will never be settled.

The North-South confrontation and division only gives foreign forces a chance to fish in troubled waters. Playing into their hands, our nation has suffered unbearable disasters and misfortunes for more than 40 years. In order to end this disgraceful history and defend national interests, both sides, one and the same nation, must not attempt at a competition but be willing to become reconciled and united and make joint efforts to reunify the country.

Another pressing prerequisite for national reunification is to discontinue military confrontation between the North and the South and to ease the tension.

As we stated more than once, military confrontation is a factor in misunderstanding and distrust. For the fellow countrymen to trust and become reconciled with each other, they must first throw away the daggers hidden in their breast pockets.

Even though it is difficult to reunify the country right now, we must seek a way to peaceful life, instead of pitting large armies against each other and retaining the factors that may trigger off a war and bring about national calamities.

We must be ready to remove the military confrontation and eliminate the danger of war in every way possible, and make a bold decision to adopt a non-aggression declaration, a sure guarantee that the North and the South will refrain from attacking each other

The implementation of this declaration can be guaranteed by increasing the authority and functions of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission of the present Military Armistice Commission and by organizing a Neutral Nations Inspection Force.

Promoting national reconciliation and unity and easing the tension at present are the minimum requirement of the principle for holding North-South talks and settling the reunification question.

We believe that we shall be able to cooperate for national reunification with anyone who takes this principled attitude. If they show such a sincere attitude, we will meet and converse at any time not only with the people from all walks of life, political parties, organizations and people of different opposition groups, but also with the South Korean rulers, unless this is contrary to the people's will, and we will meet everyone individually or collectively to exchange opinions without reserve.

At present many people show deep apprehension, saying that from the point of view of both the situation in South Korea and the North-South relations, 1988 will be a most strained and complex year.

This year we must turn the situation on the Korean peninsula, the focus of the world's attention, decisively in favour of peace and peaceful reunification for our country.

Out of this desire, we insist that the problems of discontinuing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, and the large-scale war games from this year onwards, of arranging multinational disarmament talks, of hosting the 24th Olympic games jointly by the North and South and of ceasing to hurl abuses and slanders against each other, must be discussed and settled without delay.

By resolving these problems of the day, the North and the South will make this year a historic year that will provide the opportunity of a new change for national reconciliation and unity. For this purpose, we propose to

convene a North-South joint conference attended by persons in authority of both sides and the representatives of all the political parties and social organizations and people of all social standings. This meeting will make it possible to open a new phase in breaking the deadlock between north and south and promoting peace and peaceful reunification of the country, the burning desire of the whole nation.

For the fundamental settlement of the question of the reunification of our country, the relations between the DPRK and the United States must be settled.

The United States continues its military occupation of South Korea, still avoiding the proposed tripartite talks. This shows that they have no intention of settling even the regional issue, still less preserving world peace.

Speaking from the point of view of a fair deal, the United States is not at justified in having brought nuclear weapons to South Korea and made it a nuclear base in confrontation with us who possess no nuclear weapons. If these nuclear weapons are aimed at another socialist country, they ought to withdraw them from South Korea now that they have concluded a nuclear disarmament treaty with the Soviet Union. The United States must conclude a peace agreement with us, remove as soon as possible the traces of the past which were undesirable to both sides, and open a new chapter in the annals of Korea-U.S. relationship in keeping with the current trend to peace.

We consider it the most reasonable settlement of the question of our country's reunification to establish a single confederal state, neutral and non-aligned, on the basis of the North and the South recognizing each other's existence.

For the independent and peaceful reunification of their country, all the Koreans living in the North, in the South and overseas must participate as one in the accomplishment of the sacred cause of the nation.

The Chongnyon officials and all our overseas compatriots including those in Japan must make redoubled efforts to promote national reconciliation and unity and hasten the independent and peaceful reunification of the country in cooperation with the people in their homeland.

Thanks to the positive external activity of our party and the government of our republic, last year the friendly ties between our country and the socialist, non-aligned and all the other peaceloving countries throughout the world were strengthened and the international solidarity with our revolution was increased.

I express my deep gratitude to the peoples and friends in different lands who have given support and encouragement to our just cause, and send them my new year greetings and congratulations.

The most important question in the field of international politics at the moment is to eliminate the source of nuclear war and preserve peace.

We consider that the recent signing of the treaty on partial nuclear disarmament between the Soviet Union and the United States is a significant starting point on the way to universal nuclear disarmament.

The Korean people who feel a constant threat of a possible nuclear holocaust because of a large number of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, are vitally interested in creating nuclear-free, peace zones in many parts of the world and in abolishing nuclear weapons completely.

The imperialists' policy of aggression and plunder is still the root cause of threat to world peace and of growing international tension. In spite of the ever expanding and intensifying struggle of the people throughout the world against war and for peace, the imperialists are bent on military expansion and arms race. Instead of abandoning their power politics, they are inciting and plundering developing countries more harshly by the method of neocolonialism.

As a result, "the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer" worldwide. This situation is causing not only untold hardships and miseries to the people of developing countries, but also aggravating the political and economic crises in imperialist countries. In an attempt to find a way out of these crises, the imperialists are militarizing their economies, opposing the socialist countries and intensifying the exploitation of developing countries. In this way they are going against the main historical trend to common prosperity for mankind, creating discord between nations and increasing world tensions.

In these circumstances, all the peace-loving people must unite and fight resolutely to preserve peace by frustrating the imperialists' moves for aggression and another war.

If the peoples of developing countries and oppressed nations are to achieve complete national liberation and build a new independent society, they must continue to intensify their anti-imperialist national-liberation struggle and fight to abolish the unfair, outdated international economic order and establish a new fair one. At the moment, the people of developing countries should make a joint effort to effect full-scale south-south cooperation.

This year too, our party and the government of our republic, under the unfurled banner of anti-imperialism and independence, will develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the peoples of socialist countries, non-aligned nations and other progressive people throughout the world, give unqualified support and

encouragement to all the peoples in their struggle for national independence and for the building of a new society and will make all our efforts to preserve the peace and security of the world.

The tasks facing us this year are magnificent and glorious; they are intended for the prosperity of all generations to come and calling our people who are always loyal to the party, to perform a heroic exploit.

Let all of us march forward towards the complete victory of socialism and the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, under the revolutionary banner of the *chuche* idea and under the leadership of the party.

Television Report

SK041105 [Editorial Report] Pyongyang Television Service in Korean at 0000 GMT on 1 January 1988 carries a 35-minute live or recorded relay of President Kim Il-song's New Year's address. The studio announcer introduces the address, saying: "Now, we will relay the New Year's address that the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK president, sends to all the people on the occasion of the New Year, 1988." This is followed by a photograph of snow-covered landscape. The sound of applause is heard.

As the photograph dissolves, the camera shows a close-up shot of Kim Il-song, reading his address, while standing alone behind a podium with a bank of microphones. Only a gray wall is seen behind him. Kim stops reading his speech to clear his throat on several occasions. No audience is seen throughout his address, even though the sound of clapping and applause is heard and Kim Il-song himself joins in the applause.

The film ends with the studio announcer saying: "We have relayed the New Year's address which the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK president, sends to all the people on the occasion of the New Year, 1988."

Reactions to Message

SK030901 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0854 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—The New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song for 1988 is evoking great repercussions among party members and working people.

Kim Hi-taek, chief secretary of the Pyongchon District, Pyongyang municipality, party committee, said: The New Year address of President Kim Il-song is the militant banner which powerfully encourages our people's

struggle to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche as early as possible under the uplifted banner of the chuche idea and arouses them to a worthwhile struggle for new victory and feats.

Choe Hak-son, labour hero of the Chemical Factory Construction Company No. 32 of the Northern Industrial Construction Complex, said that he would demonstrate to the world once again the stamina of the heroic Korean people with the great pride and honour of building the large Sunchon Chemical Industrial Base, a major object for sufficiently solving the food, clothing and housing problems of our people with courage given by the party.

Choe Kil-yong, deputy chief engineer of production of the Ryongsong Machine Complex, pointed out that its workers would overfulfil this year's assignments of the complex for the production of ordered equipment with the same spirit and courage with which they made a 6,000-ton press, 18-metre turning lathe, 70-metre large gantry planer, 10,000-ton press and large compounding tower.

U To-kuk, chairman of the Kangso District Cooperative Farm Management Committee, Nampo municipality, said that the farmers would more energetically press ahead with the struggle to carry out the four major tasks of the technical revolution, the irrigation, electrification, mechanization and chemicalization of agriculture, in a few years to come along the road indicated by the rural theses upholding the new year address of the great leader.

Officer of the Korean People's Army Cho Won said that the present tense situation makes incumbent upon all the armymen to always maintain revolutionary vigilance and live in a mobilized and ready posture. He expressed their resolve to thwart and frustrate the new war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the inveterate enemy, and their lackeys, defend the fatherland as firm as an iron-wall and safeguard the gains of the revolution at the risk of their life.

Kim Il-song Receives New Year Greetings

*SK040529 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0515 GMT 4 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings came to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of the new year, 1988.

They came from Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, president of the United States of Mexico; Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of State of Kuwait; Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar; Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Andre Kolingba, president and head of state and government of the Central African Republic;

Sheik Zayid Ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates; Moussa Traore, general secretary of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Republic of Mali; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; and Takako Doi, chairwoman of the central executive committee of the Japan Socialist Party.

A message of greetings came to President Kim Il-song and Li Kun-mo, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, from Najibullah, president, and Sultan 'Ali Keshmand, prime minister, of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The messages wished President Kim Il-song and the friendly Korean people happiness and prosperity in the new year and hoped for strengthened good friendly and cooperative relations between our country and the respective countries.

Special Article on 1987 Peace Initiatives

*SK020401 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0825 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Unattributed special article: "The Year That Opened a New Bright Prospect for the Reunification of the Country Through Constructive Peace Initiatives"]

[Text] Now all the people of the country are embroidering the last days of 1987 with high political zeal and shining labor success. The year 1987 was a year of glory that marked a new milestone on the road of development of our revolution with creations and innovations. During this year our people have made great progress recording new chapters in the history of the country with the brilliant success in revolution and construction.

The year 1987 is also characterized by the serious and sincere effort of our party and the government of the Republic to effect a breakthrough in the present difficult situation between the North and the South and to maintain and solidify peace for the country.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our party and the government of the republic, prompted by the national task for the Korean people and the historical sense of mission for mankind, have been making every effort to solve the Korean question peacefully through dialogue and negotiations.

To resolve the serious state of political confrontation and ease military tension between the North and the South is the most urgent problem awaiting solution on the Korean peninsula. Unless the strained state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South is brought to an end, it will forever be unthinkable to provide an advantageous phase for peace and the peaceful reunification of the country.

Prompted by the requirement of the urgent situation prevailing in the country, our party and the government of the Republic have patiently taken realistic measures since the beginning of the year to realize the high-level North-south political and military talks proposed by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the First Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly last year. Every effort has been made to realize them, with many new constructive initiatives, such as the proposal for the large-scale phased reduction of the armed forces of the North and the South and the corresponding withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea.

In November, in consideration of the developing situation in South Korea, the joint meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and the Committee for the Reunification of the Fatherland adopted letters to all the South Korean parties, factions, and people of all walks of life and put forward a five-point proposal for national reunification. All the proposals we made this year were peace initiatives coming from the essential characteristics of our state and social system, and reflect the noble aspirations and yearning of the people at home and abroad who desire peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea. All the proposals we made this year elucidate the most correct arena of negotiation and ground of dialogue that can resolve the state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South—the factor that strains the situation on the Korean peninsula—and they were very reasonable and realistic proposals that enable the important source of aggravation of tension at present to be overcome.

To prevent the danger of war and defend peace on the Korean peninsula is essential. It is a noble national task of our party and the government of the Republic for our people. It is their heavy historical mission for mankind throughout the world.

A strained state of political and military confrontation is now continuing between the North and the South. Because of the anticommunist commotions frenziedly conducted by the South Korean puppet clique under the signboard of the anticommunist state policy under the manipulation of the U.S. imperialists, the feelings of distrust and hostility between the North and the South remain the same. Anticommunism advocated by the South Korean puppet clique is the idea of confrontation, division, and war which thoroughly opposes national cohesion and reunification and rejects peace.

The differences in ideology and system can never deny the nation. It offers no ground for hostility and hatred between the same fellow countrymen. The issue of the reunification of our country is a very serious one related to the life, death, survival, and downfall of the Korean nation. Our nation, which lives in the same country and the same land, sharing the blood of the same ancestors,

forming one common body of destiny for a very long period of time, cannot live separated forever between the North and the South, with enmity toward each other.

Prompted by our nation's aspirations for reunification and the strained situation prevailing in the country, our party and the government of the Republic have in recent years made proposals for North-South talks in various channels, providing a wide ground of dialogue between the North and the South. However, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique always responded to them by continuously aggravating the situation of the country, turning away from all our peace initiatives, pursuing a line of confrontation and war. If confrontation is aggravated and the strained situation continues, another war in our country will be unavoidable. Then our nation will suffer an irreversible disaster.

Preventing the grave consequences that will result from the serious state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South and turning for the better the ever-worsening situation are the most pressing national tasks that lie in the political and military fields of the North and the South. This unavoidable demand of the urgent situation not only urgently required holding of the high-level North-South political and military talks but raised the issue of a large-scale phased arms reduction of the North and the South as an urgent historical task.

Unless high-level North-South political and military talks are held and the state of political confrontation between the North and the South is resolved, as proposed by our party and the government of the Republic, the North and the South will never be able to resolve the feelings of enmity or to promote national harmony and trust.

It is impossible to prevent the danger of war and ease tension on the Korean peninsula unless a step toward detente is taken in military fields along with resolving the state of political confrontation. Under the situation where the danger of the vast armed forces confronting each other continues, it is unthinkable to ensure peace and security on the Korean peninsula. For this reason, the Government of the Republic made, through a statement, a new proposal for reducing the armed forces of the North and the South on a large scale and in a phased manner.

As the government of the Republic proclaimed in the statement, in step with the phased reduction of the armed forces of the North and the South, the U.S. forces in South Korea should also be withdrawn in a phased manner. If the armed forces of the North and the South are reduced to 100,000 each, the United States should withdraw all its armed forces, including nuclear weapons, and eliminate military bases. This is the best way to prevent war and ensure peace in Korea, and it is the basis for promoting national harmony and trust between the North and the South. Truly, all the constructive peace initiatives made by us this year elucidate the most precise arena for negotiations and grounds for dialogue

to resolve the state of political and military confrontation on the Korean peninsula. They are very reasonable and realistic proposals that enable the important source of aggravating tension at present to be overcome.

If all the constructive proposals made by us, including the high-level North-South political and military talks, had been realized, a great advance would have been made in resolving the strained state of political and military confrontation, and an advantageous phase for peace and the peaceful reunification of the country would have been provided.

By taking the initiative of unilaterally reducing the KPA troops by 100,000 by the end of this year, as proclaimed by the government of the Republic in its statement, and successfully executing it in only about 4-months' time, we have given a living example. However, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique responded to it this year as well with the adventurous war exercises, including the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise, turning away from our peace proposals and continuously building up arms.

The phased arms reduction proposal and all other proposals advanced by our party and the Government of our Republic this year are proposals that wholly correspond to the desire of the world's people who seek an everlasting peace. Alleviating the political confrontation and military tension prevailing between the North and the South is one of the central issues in politics in the world and is directly related to peace in Asia and the world in general.

Choosing South Korea as the front line in their strategy, the U.S. imperialists, who have declared Asia and the Pacific as their life-or-death interest, have accumulated forces of aggression and nuclear weapons on a massive scale. Also this year, the U.S. imperialists, while bringing in nuclear equipment of various types on a large scale, frantically accelerated war preparations. A place where more nuclear weapons are deployed than anywhere else in the world, South Korea has become a place where a nuclear war may break out.

Alleviating the acute political and military confrontation prevailing on the Korean peninsula is important for peace in the world. If political and military confrontation is aggravated between the North and the South, Asia and the world in general cannot be peaceful. If this is so and if, as a result, a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it will immediately spread into a world thermonuclear war after surpassing the scope of a local war. Then, not only our people but also the peoples of all the countries on the earth will not be able to escape a horrific nuclear catastrophe. Today, the earnest desire of mankind is to live an independent life in a world where an everlasting peace exists. Out of the duty of the times to

fulfill such a noble desire of the world's people, our party and the Government of the Republic advanced various peace proposals this year and have devoted every sincere effort to realizing them.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique had positively responded to our proposals, not only acute political and military confrontation prevailing between the North and the South would have been alleviated but also the Korean peninsula would have been turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone posing no threat to anyone and, as a result, prospects for an everlasting peace would have been established. If, in particular, measures had been taken to realize our arms reduction proposals to drastically reduce forces of the North and the South in a phased manner and, accordingly, to withdraw U.S. forces in a phased manner, a basic cause that promotes tension on the Korean peninsula and that threatens peace there would have disappeared eternally and new bright prospects favorable to peace in and the peaceful reunification of the country would have been established.

However, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, running counter to the world's trend of seeking alleviation [of tension] and arms reduction, are continuously bringing forces of aggression and nuclear equipment into South Korea and are accelerating war preparations. Because of the endless arms buildup and war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, no sign of the alleviation of political and military confrontation between the North and the South is seen. Under these acute circumstances, 1987 is coming to an end with many historic tasks that are yet to be resolved. In the coming new year our party and the Government of the Republic, which are always loyal to the national duties for all the Korean people and the duties of the times for mankind, will also make all efforts to peacefully resolve the Korean question through dialogue and negotiations.

Kye Ung-tae Speaks at WFDY Opening Session
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[Speech by Kye Ung-tae, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at the opening session of the WFDY Executive Committee meeting held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on the morning of 8 December—recorded]

[Text] Dear delegates: I am glad that the meeting of the Executive Committee of the WFDY, which plays an important role in the struggle for peace and social progress and in the development of the world youth movement, is being held in Pyongyang, the capital of our country, and I warmly congratulate you by authority of the WPK Central Committee. [applause]

This meeting is being held as the yearning of the youths and people of the world for peace is greater than ever before. Today, our world is at an important turning point in historical development. We can foresee the prospect and possibility of building in the not-too-distant future a new world in which everyone enjoys independent and creative opportunities in conformity with his individual nature, if mankind utilizes in a peaceful manner the tremendous material strength and scientific and technological wealth it has achieved over a very long period of time.

We can say that mankind is now at an important crossroads that determines whether it will be able to build a peaceful and free new world based on the wealth it has accumulated with its noble great efforts or whether it will fall victim to nuclear calamity by allowing the imperialists to abuse it for criminal purposes. For us who live at this historical turning point when we can foresee the resplendent prospect for the endless development of mankind, the most precious thing of all is peace, and the most important task is to struggle to defend peace.

The issue of war and peace is an issue that no one should overlook, but this must be the subject of keen interest to youths more than anyone else. If war breaks out, youths will be forced to pay the dearest price of sacrifice. In a peaceful world, youths will be able to enjoy greater joy and happiness than anyone else. Therefore, youths should take the lead in waging a resolute struggle to oppose war and defend peace. This is the solemn historic task entrusted by the times. It is a glorious duty of all progressive people of our times that cannot be handed over to anyone else.

The Korean people and youths, through their historical experience, are well aware how cruel is the disaster brought about by aggression and war and how precious is peace. The patriotic and progressive youths of Korea, under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, waged a protracted bloody struggle against the Japanese colonial rule and finally recovered the fatherland, and thenceforth our youths were able to become true masters of the country, society, and their destiny. [applause]

However, our youths and people suffered hard-to-bear pain and sacrifice again because of the artificial division of the country resulting from the U.S. Forces' occupation of South Korea after the liberation in 1945 and from the war waged by the U.S. imperialists. After the war, they had to continue a tense struggle, being confronted with the vast armed forces of the United States.

At present, tens of thousands of U.S. troops in South Korea, approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons, and the large-scale war exercises that continue in South Korea are factors of constant menace to peace on the Korean peninsula.

Ensuring peace on the Korean peninsula is essential to our people's socialist construction, and it is the demand of vital interest for the reunification of our nation as well as for its prosperity in the future. Therefore, our party and the government of the Republic today put it forward as their basic policy to ensure durable peace on the Korean peninsula and to create an advantageous peaceful (environment) for socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic and for the reunification of the country, and make active efforts to realize them.

Above all, we are doing our best to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and provide a precondition for the peaceful reunification of the country while vigorously pushing ahead with socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic. The socialist base provided in the northern half is an important guarantee for peace in our country. Our party and the government of the Republic are putting into practice a peace-loving policy based on a strong socialist base, deterring provocation of new war on the Korean peninsula and defending peace.

Even during recent years, our party and the Government of the Republic put forward a number of reasonable and constructive proposals, including the proposal to hold tripartite talks among us, the United States, and the South Korean authorities; the proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free, peace zone; and the proposal to drastically cut the armed forces in the North and the South.

At the same time, we took the initiative in sending 150,000 officers and men of the People's Army to peaceful construction and in unilaterally cutting 100,000 troops. This clearly shows that we are making sincere efforts to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and for peace through practical acts, not merely with words.

We will make all possible efforts in the future, as well, to eliminate the danger of nuclear war and to safeguard peace in Korea. To achieve peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea, we extend firm solidarity to the South Korean youths, students, and people in their struggle.

The fierce anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle of the popular masses is currently being waged in South Korea to eradicate the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule, to recover the national dignity and sovereignty, and to realize democratization of society. Standing at the vanguard of this just struggle are the youths and students.

The United States and the South Korean authorities justified the deployment of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea and the maintenance of the fascist dictatorship with distorted propaganda on a so-called threat of southward invasion over the past scores of years. However, there is no threat of southward invasion on the Korean peninsula nor can it exist. This is clear to everyone.

The achievement of peaceful reunification of our country assumes peace in Korea as its precondition and serves as an important guarantee for ensuring durable peace in Korea, Asia, and around the world by eliminating the source of war on the Korean peninsula. Through their practical experience, the South Korean youths, students, and people have come to keenly realize that the basic hindrance to national reunification and democratization is the occupation of South Korea by the United States, which gravely threatens peace by turning South Korea into the largest nuclear base in the Far East and which supports the military dictatorship.

Therefore, they are heroically struggling by upholding the banner of the anti-U.S. struggle for independence and antifascism for democratization. Their struggle is shaking the ruling system of the United States and its stooges to the root and is greatly contributing to the common cause of the progressive youths and people of the world for peace and the progress of society.

The Korean people and youths attach great importance to strengthening the solidarity with the progressive youths of the world in the struggle to safeguard peace. The struggle for peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea is closely linked with the cause of progressive mankind for safeguarding the peace of the world.

The enormous number of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea not only threaten peace in Korea and the existence of our nation, but also gravely threaten peace in Asia and the world. It is the common work of all of the Korean youths and the youths of the world to make South Korea a nuclear-free peace zone. The issue of guaranteeing peace in Korea can be successfully resolved through the common efforts of all of the Korean people and a broad range of peace-loving forces of the world. Thus, we have always highly appraised the efforts of the peace-loving nations of the world for easing tension and peace and have extended firm solidarity to them. Proceeding from this position, we hoped for the smooth conclusion of the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on abolishing medium- and short-range missiles.

We believe that if reduction and abolition of all nuclear weapons in all areas of the world, including Asia, are realized with progress in USSR-U.S. dialogue and if overall international tensions are relaxed, a favorable phase will be opened for the development of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

We regard the youths as the leading force in the struggle to safeguard peace against war. When the progressive youths of the world strengthen international solidarity, the peace forces will suppress the forces of war and the cause of peace will attain final victory. [applause]

Our party and the government of the Republic always pay attention to strengthening the friendship, unity, and cooperation between our youths and the progressive youths of the world.

We are convinced that the 13th World Festival of Youths and Students to be held in Pyongyang in the summer of 1989 will be a ground of friendship for promoting understanding and friendship between the progressive youth organizations of the world and the youths themselves and an important opportunity for strengthening the militant solidarity of the youths of the world in their anti-imperialist, antinuclear struggle for peace. The WPK and the government of the Republic will make every effort so that the Pyongyang festival will be successfully held in a free and democratic atmosphere with the active participation of youth delegates of all strata in conformity with the expectations and aspirations of all the youths and people of the world. [applause]

Today, the youths of Korea are taking the lead in the struggle for socialist construction and for defending peace in our country, thereby enjoying the warm love of all the Korean people for them. Enhancing the role of youths by intensifying the work for youths has been a glorious tradition adopted by our party since the era of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. The youth movement in our country is developing onto an even higher stage today under the leadership of the WPK, contributing greatly to socialist construction and the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. The Korean youths, under the leadership of our party, will continue, in the future as well, to carry out their honorable mission in firm cohesion with the progressive youths of the world, in the sacred struggle to accelerate the cause of the Korean revolution, to accelerate progress toward the beautiful future of youths, and to build a peaceful and independent new world. [applause]

We anticipate that this meeting will contribute to strengthening and developing the world youth movement and sincerely wish the meeting success in its work. [applause]

Daily Discusses Party's Lines, Policies

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[NODONG SINMUN 29 December special article: "The Party's Lines and Policies Are Invincible Weapons of Our Revolution"]

[Text] The Korean revolution is winning one victory after another under the leadership of the party. Amid the advance of the revolution, our people's confidence in their party and its policies is growing higher. The party's lines and policies are the people's weapons for struggle and the banner of advance and creation. Victory and glory await those people who advance under the correct lines of the party.

It is because of the party's correct lines and policies that our people have advanced without twists and turns while traversing along the road of an unprecedentedly arduous revolution. The gains of our revolution are an (?outcome) of our chuche-oriented lines, [words indistinct].

When we advance under the banner of our party and its policies and when we defend them we can overcome all difficulties and ordeals and win victory. This is an iron-like faith which our people have cherished deep in their hearts in the course of an arduous revolutionary struggle. Since the people are firmly united around the party on the basis of this faith, the main force of our revolution is invincible.

All victories and gains of our revolution are the precious results of the party's lines and policies.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The party's lines and policies have the most correct strategy and tactics for successfully carrying out our revolution and it is the guideline of our activities.

The party of the working class, the headquarters of the revolution, leads a revolutionary movement through its lines and policies. The party's lines and policies are revolutionary strategy and tactics that embody the leader's revolutionary idea. They delineate the directions and goals of revolutionary struggle and construction work and methods for carrying them out.

Revolution is an organizational and conscious struggle that is staged on the basis of the party's lines and policies. Therefore, the course of executing the party's policy is precisely the process for revolutionary struggle. Without correct lines and policies we cannot advance the revolution even a step nor can we expect its victory.

Inheriting and developing the revolution are precisely the overall realization of a revolutionary idea. The revolutionary cause of the working class can be accomplished only when it implements the party's lines and policies generation after generation by assuming the leader's idea as its guideline. This is a principle of the revolution.

The fate and future of the revolution importantly depend on what the party's policy is and how it is implemented. The party's lines and policies are the guidelines for revolutionary struggle and construction work. Revolution is man's practical activities designed to remodel nature, society, and human beings. Just as a blindman practicing without (?faith) cannot escape from failure, the revolution cannot be led to victory without correct lines and policies.

The revolutionary road of remodeling nature and society and conquering an unknown world is arduous. As taught by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the party's policy is like a light illuminating a path on a dark night. Just as we cannot walk well along a dark path without a

light, we cannot successfully pioneer the road ahead of a complicated revolution. A revolution, which advances, constantly winning victory even under difficult and complicated conditions, entails correct policies and the people's (?struggle) to enhance them.

The party's lines and policies are also a source that strengthens the main force of the revolution and enhances its role. Revolution is a movement of this (?main force). Only when the main force of the revolution is secured can the revolution be launched and advance victoriously. The decisive key to victory in a revolutionary war against the (?enemy) or in a grand combat for economic construction is the main force of the revolution.

The main force of the revolution is the united body of the leader, the party, and the masses. The important ideological basis of this unity and cohesion is the party's lines and policies. The people forge relations with the party and the leader and are united with them as a single destiny through lines and policies along with an organization.

Those people engaging in the revolution grasp the greatness of the party and the leader and trust and follow them amid the struggle to firmly arm themselves with their party's policy and to embody it. Only then can the party be strengthened and the unity and cohesion of the party and the popular masses be firmly consolidated.

The long history of the revolutionary movement shows that only when there are the party's correct lines, policies, and slogans can a broad range of the masses be united and victory be attained in the revolution. The party's correct lines and policies are a guarantee that makes it possible to establish chuche.

As taught by the chuche idea, a revolution is a struggle for the popular masses to liberate themselves with their own strength and become the masters of their destinies.

At present, the revolution is being conducted on the basis of a nation-state unit. The masters of each country are its party and people. Every country differs in social and historical conditions and its revolutionary duties. Therefore, establishing chuche is a key question deciding the fate of the revolution. It is an absolute demand just as it is necessary for social human beings to defend independence. Establishing chuche is precisely conducting a revolutionary struggle and construction work on the basis of our party's idea and policy and with our brains and strength. Only when the party puts forth lines and policies conforming to the demands of its people and the realities of the country and the people adopt them as their faith and invariably embody them can the revolution be developed in an independent way and genuine independence and happiness of its natives be achieved.

In this way, the party's lines and policies are of very great principled significance from the viewpoint of the content and driving force of the revolution and construction and

the guiding principle. Therefore, advancing by adhering to the party's correct lines and policies is the most important demand and most vital work in a revolutionary movement.

Advancing by adhering to the party's lines and policies, is directly linked to the question of defending and safeguarding the party and protecting national dignity. Only when correct revolutionary lines and policies are firmly adhered to can the party and the people display glory as a revolutionary party and as an independent people, respectively. For this reason, revolutionary people and genuine communists unhesitatingly devote their youth and lives to defending and implementing their party's policy, treasuring it more than their lives.

The party's correct lines create great realities. The people adopt just lines and policies as their own and display a matchless heroism in the struggle to realize them. When the party incessantly puts forward correct lines and the people resolutely defend and implement them under whatever conditions and circumstances, the revolution smoothly develops and national prosperity is achieved. This is an eternal truth.

The history of the Korean revolution has been embroidered with eloquent facts and events that confirm this truth. The Korean revolution has been an unprecedentedly arduous and complicated revolution. Thanks to our party's correct lines and the people's struggle, however, the Korean revolution has not undergone even a little suffering or slight twists and turns amid every step of hewing out an untrod path. Because of this, the authority of our party is high, the dignity of our people shines, and the history of the Korean revolution is glorious.

The period shortly after the liberation, the war period, and the postwar period were very difficult in the path of our people's struggle to build a new society. During these periods, the fate of our revolution and the destiny of the nation were, literally, on the crossroads of life or death and survival or ruin. Even though the situation was very difficult and ordeals were grim, we were able to attain a great victory in every period because the party put forward correct lines and policies and the party members and the people devotedly struggled to implement them.

The situation of the country was very difficult after the liberation. Whether liberated Korea would traverse along the road of building an independent and self-reliant state or whether it would suffer from the yoke of colonial slavery again depended on what course it would take.

On the basis of his deep insight into the created situation and the demands of the developing revolution, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in the work "On Building the Party, State, and Armed Forces in the Liberated Fatherland," the work on "Progressive Democracy," and many other works, put forth the lines of advancing along

the road of neither bourgeois democracy nor other types of democracy but a new people-minded democracy and of building a people-minded regime and effecting democratic reforms in all fields. This was a correct path along which Korea should advance.

Even amid such difficult and disturbing circumstances, our people upheld the cause of building a new fatherland, trusting only the respected and beloved General Kim Il-song, the lodestar of national liberation, and absolutely supporting his lines of building the state, in the way of pooling strength from those who had strength, money from those who had money, and knowledge from those who had knowledge. Because our people defended and implemented *chuche*-oriented revolutionary lines and policies amid a fierce struggle between revolution and counter-revolution and between democracy and reactionism, the anti-imperialist and antifeudalistic democratic revolution was brilliantly discharged within a short period of time. This was a great historic victory in which the nation defended the gains of the anti-Japanese revolution and made a big stride toward independence and prosperity.

Defending and implementing *chuche*-oriented lines and policies were raised as a very important question as the revolution and construction developed after the war. This was particularly connected with the aggravation of the venomous maneuvers of factionalists and flunkeyists.

By announcing the work on "Eliminating Dogmatism and Formalism in Ideological Work and Establishing *Chuche*," the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song set forth the resolute policy of maintaining the party's idea and policy and establishing *chuche* in all fields. On the basis of this, the respected and beloved leader wisely led the struggle to smash the maneuvers of antiparty and anti-revolutionary factional elements, powerfully pushing ahead with postwar rehabilitation and capital socialist construction.

Thanks to the struggle of our party's hard-core members—including anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters—and the people who were firmly united around the party and the leader, the grim ordeals after the war were overcome and the flames of great revolutionary upsurge blazed up in socialist construction. The struggle of the working class of Kangson and the earnest appeal of grandmother Taesong were a manifestation of the people's iron-like conviction of trusting only their party and leader and defending the party's policy with lives.

If we had failed to establish *chuche* and embody such great lines as the basic lines of socialist economic construction, the lines of building a self-reliant national economy, and the lines of remodeling the form of economy into a socialist form, we would have been unable to defend the revolution and build a wealthy and mighty socialist power after the war. We can never forget

the history of postwar struggle which practically confirmed that only when we defend the party's lines can we safeguard the brain [sunoe] of the party and break through whatever difficulties in the revolution.

The lines of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense, which were laid down by our party, have been brilliantly implemented, and the lines of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—have displayed great vitality as the basic strategic lines of socialist and communist construction. This is because our people advance, firmly adhering to the chuche-oriented revolutionary lines under the leadership of the party.

Amid the very complicated internal and external circumstances of the revolution in recent years, our people have vigorously advanced along the revolutionary lines set forth by the sixth party congress and the chuche-oriented nature of the Korean revolution has been invariably defended. This proud reality cannot be thought of separately from the leadership of our party which has more thoroughly established chuche in all fields and which has consistently guaranteed an inheriting nature in its policy and leadership.

In the works "On the Chuche Idea," "Several Problems Arising in Educating the Chuche Idea," and many other works, the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il clearly elucidated the just and true nature of the chuche idea and delineated ways for thoroughly embodying the chuche idea.

Adopting the party's idea and theory as faith and comprehensively embodying them are an object of a rewarding life and struggle to our party members and workers. Absolutely trusting and following our party and its policy and loyally upholding the party's leadership generation after generation are a new revolutionary trait of our society today. This endlessly brightens the future of the chuche cause.

The history of the Korean revolution confirms that the road of advancing under our party's lines and policies is a road to victory and glory and that there is no fortress that we cannot occupy on this road. Only when the party's correct policy is defended can the revolutionary struggle be independently pushed ahead with the united strength of the party and the masses and everything precious to the nation be defended. This is an important summation of our revolution.

2. Our party's lines and policies are a banner of the revolution and victory.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: Our party has always been able to attain shining victory in the revolution and construction since it has independently established and executed all lines

and policies in compliance with the interests of our people and the realities of our country with the chuche idea as the sole guiding idea under the wise leadership of the leader.

As long as the party's lines and policies embody the guiding idea, their justness and vitality are decided by the true and revolutionary nature of the guiding idea. When a guiding idea is great and it is correctly embodied in lines and policies, they become most attractive and vital.

The sole guiding idea of our party, a chuche-type party, is the chuche idea, and the lines and policies of the party are based on the chuche idea and are consistent with it. To define our lines and policies in a word, they are chuche-oriented lines and policies.

The chuche idea is an out-and-out revolutionary idea which helps us pioneer our own fate and the destinies of the country and the nation with our own strength, and a perfect revolutionary theory that indicates the road toward completely realizing the independence of the popular masses.

This idea demands that the party set forth a policy complying with realities in accordance with its own conviction from an independent and creative standpoint. Herein lies the revolutionary and scientific nature of the chuche idea as the genuine guiding idea of our times.

Our party independently maps out all lines and policies thoroughly on the basis of the chuche idea. The basis of these activities of the party is the realities of our country and the aspirations and demands of our people. For this reason, the lines and policies of our party are our original lines and policies which are based on realities and set with our own spirit.

Because our party carries independent politics with chuche firmly established in all manner of its activity, all the party's lines and policies serve as the ever-victorious banner. Our party's thorough embodiment of the chuche idea is the source of all the characteristics of our party's lines and policies.

Important characteristics of our party's policies are consistency and continuity. Ensuring the consistency and continuity of party policies is the major principle governing party activities that arise in the entire course of achieving the revolutionary cause, including the fundamental principles of the revolution. This is one of the fundamental factors needed to tenaciously keep the revolution alive and to achieve victory in the revolution.

For the party policies to have consistency and continuity means that they are consistently being inherited, developed, and embodied without interruption.

The consistency and continuity in formulation and execution of policies is the central expression of the party's greatness and of the correct nature of the policies.

As far as our party is concerned, consistency and continuity are the important ways of expressing creativity. Ours is a mature and tested party which creatively develops revolutionary theory, strategy, and tactics in a way that corresponds to the new environment and then ably embodies them, while retaining its clear-cut stand to inherit and consummate the revolutionary cause to the end.

The consistency and continuity that our party maintains in terms of its lines is to fully embody the lines and policies in a way that corresponds to the demands of the developing revolution and the prevailing situation, while firmly adhering to the principal problems.

Our revolutionary struggle is at once socialist and communist construction. As is the case with all of social development processes, socialist and communist construction will advance and consummate according to its own natural-law-governed process.

Our party has fully explained the scientific strategy and struggle guidelines for socialist and communist construction and is now embodying them in the party's lines and activities. This being the case, there can be no such thing in our party's policies which does not correspond to the inevitability of socialist and communist construction and the concrete reality in our country.

The wise aspect about our party's leadership lies in the fact that our party, advancing consistent lines and policies, sagaciously maps out and applies struggle guidelines and strategy and tactics complying with the consistent lines and policies in every period and at every stage of the developing revolution so as to have the tasks that arise in the revolution and construction executed without a hitch.

The consistency is in unity with the continuity. Firmly ensuring continuity in formulating and executing the policies, with stress laid on inheriting the traditions, is the unwavering will of our party.

After realizing the liberation of the fatherland with his great ideology and leadership, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has realized the cause of founding the party, the nation, and the army; established the socialist system; and is now pushing ahead with the struggle for the complete victory of socialism.

Assuming it as its supreme mission to inherit, develop, and embody the ideologies and policies advanced by the leader, our glorious party, which is inheriting the great leader's revolutionary cause, subjects all forms of party work and activity to them.

Every one of the lines and policies presented by our party center is the embodiment, enrichment, and development of the policies advanced by the respected and beloved leader.

Inheriting the policies means further enhancing them. It means to thoroughly execute the lines and policies that have already been presented to make strategic lines and tasks more concrete and to then realize them with new policies.

The original forms of the lines and policies we now embody were largely shaped during the period of anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

In the case of how the economy is managed, one of the difficult and complicated problems that arise in socialist construction, is maintaining the chuche-oriented economic management system and method created in the days that followed establishment of the socialist system. This is evidence of the consistency maintained by our party.

Beneath the consistency and continuity is the party's faithfulness to the revolutionary cause and the chuche-oriented nature of party activity. The chuche-oriented nature and independence inherent in our party's activities is such that it solves all problems that arise in the evolution and construction based on its own conviction and judgment, no matter what, in a way that corresponds to the reality in our country and the interests of the people.

Thanks to the independence firmly maintained by our party, our revolution has consistently advanced along the single-track road of chuche without wavering amid any storm.

Our people take great pride and dignity in having advanced and triumphed with a single ideology and policy over the course of the long revolutionary struggle.

Another characteristic of our party policies lies in their having thoroughly embodied the revolutionary principles. The revolutionary principles are the strong revolutionary spirit to defend the interests of the working class and principles that govern socialism. Defending the principles is the essential demand of the communist movement. When the principles are not maintained in the party policies and activities, it is impossible to advance the revolution or safeguard and defend the gains that have already been attained.

The revolution keeps advancing without interruption. The principles should always be firmly maintained in party lines and policies. In particular, the farther socialist construction advances and the more profound the class struggle becomes, the firmer the principles need to be defended and safeguarded. This is a unbreakable revolutionary demand.

Ours is an iron-clad party that was born with deep and tenacious roots amid the flames of the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and chastened amid the storms of severe anti-imperialist struggle.

Our party's stand to safeguard the interests of the working class and the revolutionary principles is thorough. Our party's lines and policies have thoroughly embodied the class stand of the working class and its fundamental interests, as well as the essential demands of socialism.

The firm principle of our party is to view, judge, and handle everything based on the point of view of the working class and from the standpoint of developing and consummating the socialist society. Therefore, it does not allow anything that is not revolutionary and not working class in formulating policies designed to develop all sectors of society, including politics, economy, ideology, and culture.

The foundation of the socialist society is collectivism. The characteristics and superiority of the socialist society lie in the fact that the demands and interests of social groups are more valued and given precedence over all others. This principle lies beneath our party's policies.

Not only is socialist democracy thoroughly embodied in the lines and policies of the political field, there also exist only policies suitable to collectivist principles in all fields of economic management, the indoctrination of the people in morality, and the living mode of the working people.

Advancement of the revolution becomes difficult from time to time.

The disposition of communists is to tirelessly stage the revolutionary struggle without abandoning communist faith under any circumstances. Only when they advance with the spirit of perseverance without backstepping in confronting difficulties to realize a classless society and thereby capture the ideological and material fortress of communism can they fulfill the noble mission of communists.

The revolutionary movement of the working class accompanies the fierce fight against imperialism and class enemies. Just as wolves cannot transform into sheep, the imperialist nature can never change.

The enemies of our revolution are most crafty and wicked. Our party, while maintaining a strong principled stand against imperialism, responds to the U.S. imperialists' counterrevolutionary strategy with revolutionary strategy and approaches their deceptive strategy with the revolutionary principles and strongly defends and safeguards the fundamental interests of the revolution and its final goal.

The policy for independent and peaceful reunification of the country advanced by our party and the principle lines for the anti-imperialist cause are clear evidence of this.

Embodied in our party's lines and policies are the unwavering conviction in the final victory of the revolution, the lofty sense of responsibility for the fate of the fatherland and people, and the party's will to overwhelm capitalism through practical struggle.

Our party's principled and consistent stand is to achieve the complete victory of socialism and national reunification and consummate the revolutionary cause to the end under the banner of *chuche*, without wavering, no matter how viciously the imperialists and their lackeys may maneuver and whatever difficulties may occur.

Thanks to our party's principled stand, our people keep effecting innovations and advances and are becoming highly dignified people who demonstrate the true superiority of socialism.

It is because a great leader [*yongdoja*] is upheld at the head of the party that our party's lines and policies have become the banner of the revolution and the ever-victorious banner. The party's lines and policies are the organizational opinion of the entire party presented by the leader [*suryong*]. Whether the policies are correct or not depend entirely on the leader's greatness and his being wise.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song [*kyongachunum*] is an outstanding ideologue and theoretician who has created the immortal *chuche* idea and a great leader who has accomplished incomparably rich revolutionary achievements and experience over the long course of 60 years.

The respected and beloved leader has led the arduous Korean revolution to victory down a straightforward road with his correct lines and leadership and is even today wisely organizing and leading the struggle to consummate the revolutionary cause.

The *chuche*-oriented leadership method and leadership art, include the scientific insight, principles, and the uncommon ability to carry them out, have been established by the great leader have become the decisive guarantors of our revolutionary victory.

Our people, who are advancing with a great leader upheld at the head of the party and revolution, will be ever triumphant as in the past and highly display the honor of the *chuche* Korea.

Making our party's lines and policies a faith, and living and struggling under this faith, is the great honor for the members of the WPK and the people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the party Central Committee, has noted: Communists should absolutely trust the leader's revolutionary ideas and party policies

and devote themselves to the struggle waged to realize them, and have boundless loyalty to trust only the leader and party and invariably honor him under any adverse circumstances.

We are still traversing the arduous revolutionary path and live under complicated circumstances. Thus, difficulties may lie ahead of us. To overcome the difficulties and trials laid before us and to accomplish the revolution to the end, we should advance by firmly adhering to the party's lines and policies, upholding the banner of our party's *chuche* idea at all times and in all places.

When all the people safeguard the party's policies by assuming the party's ideas and policies as their faith and by always upholding the party under any circumstances, no maneuvers of the enemy would be fearful. The strength of overcoming grave difficulties during the postwar period was the united strength of the people who thoroughly implemented their party's ideas and policies, absolutely trusting in them.

More important than anything else is for the party members and workers in glorifying the honor of the *chuche*-type revolutionaries to deeply cherish pride in their party's policies. The lofty pride of those who are carrying out the revolution in their party's policies is expressed in that they assume their party's ideas and policies as their firm revolutionary outlook on the world, as a monolithic guideline in their thinking and acting, and as the creed of their lives.

The faith that our party members and workers should deeply cherish today is to have sincere hearts of not knowing anything but their party's ideas and policies and of always breathing and acting according to such ideas and policies and under any circumstances. Only when one constantly disciplines and trains himself and consolidates his ideological faith, not boasting of its firmness, can he fulfill the duty assigned by history and the times and glorify his lofty social and political life.

With its greatness in ideology and leadership and with its rich experiences and practical achievements, the WPK has indestructible authority. Today a foundation on which the revolution can be accomplished to the end by overcoming all storms, has been firmly laid in our party and all guidelines have been provided.

We have everything, including not only the theory on the ideological and material basis of communism and on the three revolutions — the basic strategic goal and line in socialist and communist construction — but also the great socialist rural theses, a socialist agricultural construction program. We also have the Taean work system — a superior socialist economic management system — agricultural guidance system, the Chongsan-ri spirit, and the Chongsan-ri method, a revolutionary method of leading the masses.

All of our party's lines and policies have been created and tested through long revolutionary struggle and practices. Their pulling capacity and significance grow greater with each passing day.

Thanks to correct policies in all domains and all stages, we are able to advance straight into the future, as well. We should tenaciously fight to accomplish the *chuche* cause by cherishing great pride in having the great party and most correct policies and by upholding the leadership of the party and the leader.

This is boundlessly glorious work to demonstrate the lofty traits and invincible unity and cohesion of our functionaries and party members who have a thorough revolutionary outlook on the leader, who share destiny with the party that assumes the leader as its center, and who have the lofty principle for the *chuche*-oriented socialist fatherland.

It is important for the party members and workers in glorifying the honor of the *chuche*-type revolutionaries to tenaciously safeguard and implement the party's lines and policies. Implementing the party's policies is a most thorough method of safeguarding them.

Therefore, one should accept the party's lines and policies as a lofty demand in his life and as a joy rather than an obligation and should implement them thoroughly and unconditionally. This is a fundamental mission of *chuche*-oriented communist revolutionaries.

Our party is carrying out brave, large-scale operations to expedite the complete victory of socialism, including the complete realization of the socialist rural theses and acceleration of construction of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex. The faith of our functionaries, party members, and workers in the party and their loyalty to the party's lines and policies should be demonstrated in the gigantic practical struggle to implement the party's ideas.

Our functionaries, party members, and workers should become forerunners in implementing the party's lines and policies and creators of exploits.

The WPK is a great party that carries out the revolution and never ceases the struggle and our people are a revolutionary people who create and brilliantly inherit the tradition of boundless loyalty to the party and the leader.

Our era, which is led by our party's ideas and lines and which is advancing by the struggle of the people who boundlessly trust and uphold the party, is shining most brightly as a most glorious era.

Our ranks, united with the leader, the party, and the people as one, are invincible forever.

South Korea

Foreign Minister Comments on Ties With PRC

SK040832 Seoul YONHAP in English
0820 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will make utmost efforts to improve its relations with communist countries including China this year, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su said Monday.

Minister Choe emphasized, however, that the government will keep watching the continued close military cooperation between the Soviet Union and North Korea.

In a speech to ministry officials on the first working day of this year, Choe said that the year 1988, when South Korea's first ever peaceful transition of power is scheduled and the Seoul Olympic Games are to be held, will be a watershed in the Korean republic's 40-year diplomatic history.

The minister said that a total of 122 countries, including such communist countries as Hungary and East Germany, have already informed South Korea as of the end of last year of their decisions to participate in the Seoul Olympics.

Choe added that all 167 IOC (International Olympic Committee) member countries are expected to inform South Korea of their intention to participate in the Olympics by the Jan. 17 deadline.

No Denies Plans To Visit PRC

SK041050 Seoul YONHAP in English
1043 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korean President-elect No Tae-u Monday denied reports of his intention to visit China labeling them as stemming from exaggeration or guesswork, but said that both countries have reached a stage preparing for a formal relationship.

I have never disclosed an intention to visit China, No said while chairing the first caucus this year of his ruling Democratic Justice Party, adding that the reports have stemmed from exaggeration or guesswork.

No said that South Korea's efforts to improve its relations with China could be modeled after the U.S. experience by going through sports and cultural exchanges in the initial stage, followed by economic exchanges in the second stage, and then the establishment of formal relations in the third stage.

I think it is the stream of history that both our country and the People's Republic of China have come to a stage preparing for a formal diplomatic relationship, he said.

Saying that the establishment of a formal relationship between South Korea and China will play an important role in easing tension on the divided Korean peninsula, No added that he hopes relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union would develop likewise.

No also emphasized the need for more active and progressive policies on the inter-Korean issues and on the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Commenting on domestic politics, No repeated his call for democratic management of the ruling party in order to put an end to authoritarianism and bureaucracy and to regain popular credibility.

He asked the ruling party officeholders to speed up their efforts to work out reconciliatory measures that will heal the wounds of the 1980 civilian uprising in Kwangju on the occasion of the new government's inauguration.

In addition, No said it would be necessary to shape a political environment for the appearance and development of liberal and reformist parties for the nation's future politics.

Daily Carries Interview With No Tae-u

SK040801 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
1 Jan 88 p 3

[New Year's interview with President-elect No Tae-u, by Chon Yuk, deputy director of the Political Department—date and place not indicated]

[Text] On the occasion of the new year, President-elect No Tae-u sat for an interview with the CHUNGANG ILBO and expressed his ambitions and opinions on plans to manage state affairs after his inauguration and on pending issues and the situation at home and abroad. President-elect No Tae-u pledged to devote himself to democratization and national reconciliation as he had committed himself to during the election campaign and clarified once again his theory on "ordinary people."

[Chon] Congratulations on your victory in the election. You will be inaugurated next month. What do you think is the first task you will carry out after inauguration?

[No] First of all, I will invariably take the stand that the people are awe-inspiring. The duty the new government should discharge first is to concretely realize democratic harmony.

[Chon] On many occasions, you have stressed that democratization is a mission of the times. However, some people say that in light of past examples, they have to wait and see if democratization will be put into practice. Can we believe what you say?

[No] What I have committed myself to can be vouched for. Please, have trust. I have even told the people that I would risk an interim evaluation after the Olympics.

You will see whether my commitment will come true. I will embody the spirit of democratic harmony in many social fields and adopt it as a basic direction of state management.

[Chon] I believe that democratization importantly depends on the will of a ruler to realize it and, at the same time, it can be carried into practice based on the people's trust and evaluation. Do you have any idea how to secure the people's trust in what you say at an early date?

[No] Is there any great idea to restore the people's confidence overnight? I believe there is no other way but to consistently adhere to truth and honesty. As I did in the election campaign, I will frankly acknowledge and correct anything wrong over the course of pushing ahead with the work. I ask the people to show patience and render cooperation.

[Chon] During the campaign period, you promised to serve as a bridge for civilian politics. It is men who exercise politics. You will inevitably employ who you know and who your close aides know in forming your cabinet and your National Assembly group. In what way you will employ good and reputable people?

[No] I will resolutely reject biased personnel management in accordance with my relations with those from my home province, my academic relations, and my family relations. No one who is not welcomed in an organization will be posted in a high-ranking position. I will hire the most competent, upright, and reputable persons in all fields, transcending differences in political parties, provinces, sexes, and generations.

[Chon] Have you secured a candidate for prime minister?

[No] We now live in the era of information. I believe that there are many gauges to evaluate people. I will also do my best to hire an excellent man. I hope you in the mass media will also introduce and recommend a good candidate to me.

[Chon] By that do you mean that you will nominate candidates for lawmakers and form a cabinet by valuing public opinion?

[No] That is right. Only then can the people trust me and the DJP take the majority in the election to stabilize the nation. Flattering public opinion is different from honoring it.

[Chon] Will you discuss your concept of nominating candidates to be lawmakers, negotiations over the election law, and the time of the election of lawmakers?

[No] In connection with nomination, I intend to initiate many fresh figures, give a shot in the arm to the party, and fill the party ranks with youth. Concrete standards and directions will be delineated as negotiations over the

election law proceed. In principle, the time and method of election of lawmakers should be decided upon by agreement between the ruling and opposition parties. However, I am firmly convinced that a new regime should be fresh. I hope that the general election will be held in the middle of February at latest to launch a new government and National Assembly at the same time.

[Chon] When the president remains the head of the ruling party, arguments over whether the legislative is the servant of the administration follow without exception. How will you readjust relations between the government and the National Assembly?

[No] I will faithfully adhere to the textbook operation of democracy according to the principle of mutual independence of the three powers—the legislative, the judiciary, and the administration. When autonomy is granted to the political parties and the cabinet, the assembly and the government can maintain smooth relations. Toward this end, intraparty democracy is very important. When the DJP develops into a party in which opinions of the lower echelons are smoothly delivered to higher echelons, the function of checks and balances between the assembly and the executive will be maintained. It is, of course, important for me not to seek selfishness but to play the role of coordination.

[Chon] In connection with the democratic operation of the DJP, are you considering employing such factional politics as seen in the LDP of Japan?

[No] First, I will introduce the system of public competition in selecting the next presidential candidate and key officials to improve the character of the DJP. I believe that in this case, diverse views will be presented and personnel lineups will be formed according to policies and assertions over the course of public competition. For example, factions can be formed according to differences between conservative and progressive lines and between a policy with priority given to stability and a reform-seeking policy. Therefore, I believe it natural for factions to reasonably emerge in the process of a party's growth and development.

[Chon] While pledging to manage state affairs in a suprapartisan way, you have said that you would boldly hire even opposition figures if they possess abilities. By that do you mean to win opposition forces over to your side? If not, do you mean that you would accept their opposite views?

[No] In the last election, we learned many lessons. National discord and regionalism were serious. All of us commonly recognize that measures for democratic harmony are urgent. I will boldly accept the opinions of the opposition camp, the minority, and the 63 percent of voters who did not vote for me. Of course, I will honor opposition opinions with a humble attitude if they are necessary for democratic harmony.

[Chon] You made a promise during the election campaign for a vote of confidence after the Olympics. Do you mean by this that you will ask the people to vote on their confidence in your achievements during the 8-month period following your assumption of office or do you have in mind revision of the Constitution for a cabinet system, as well?

[No] It would be going too far if I were to raise the issue of constitutional revision again at this juncture when the new Constitution has not even gone into effect, nor has the term of office of the new president begun. Asking the people's confidence again means that I will ask them to make an interim evaluation of me. By this I meant to express my earnest desire to carry out all the promises I made. I believe that even the presidential system can make use of the advantages of the cabinet system well. That is to say, we could delegate a considerable portion of the administrative authority to the prime minister and the cabinet, disperse power so that the National Assembly, the Cabinet, and the political parties can become the center of politics, and operate the government in a flexible manner.

[Chon] Over the course of the last presidential election, the conflict between the people from different regions and different walks of life and different generations has been deepened, and the gap between them has been made deeper. Don't you think it necessary to bring about an epochal turn in the way of thinking and to establish measures for it to create an environment of trust, to establish morality, and to dissolve conflicts of various kinds?

[No] Toward the end of the last presidential election campaign, when other candidates mentioned many things indiscriminately with only the election in mind, I thought of the consequences of the remarks they were making and made the "declaration of a new era of democratic reconciliation." The Center for Democratic Reconciliation will formulate measures that conform with the people's concern and expectations.

[Chon] What are the measures you have in mind for settlement of the Kwangju incident?

[No] The Kwangju incident represents the wounds and scars carried not only by the Kwangju residents, but by all the people. We should heal them expeditiously. I will see to it that the victims recover their honor and that the bereaved families receive due spiritual and material compensation. I am also considering having this national tragedy recorded in history and having a monument built to console the dead with the participation of all the people.

[Chon] You advocate coexistence with the opposition parties. In what manner are you planning to establish a relationship between the ruling and opposition parties?

[No] I meant to say that although we will compete with them in a constructive manner, we will widen the scope of our cooperation with them with respect for the will of the people who voted for the opposition candidates. I hope the opposition parties will participate in the Center for Democratic Reconciliation. Wouldn't it be good to let competent opposition figures participate in the formation of the new government? We will also form the National Assembly election laws and the local autonomy system through serious dialogue and compromise with the opposition parties.

[Chon] What is your view of the possible emergence of a progressive political party? Don't you have any plan to help the emergence of such a party?

[No] I believe that to solve the structural conflicts and problems in a complex industrial society, a new world outlook and progressive slogans should be accommodated within the limits of the law. However, distinction should be made between this and the leftism based on the theory of violence and revolution. I will render all the help I can for the emergence of a progressive party. But don't you think that the progressive forces can unite themselves through something like a reorganization of the opposition camp?

[Chon] How do you plan to operate the elder statesmen's council provided for in the new Constitution? Many observe that the existing state affairs advisory council is of little use.

[No] I admit that the function and role of the elder statesmen have been very difficult and not significant enough. As the elders' advice is important when a family is faced with a difficulty, so I will attach importance to the advice of elder statesmen.

[Chon] Some people are now concerned about the possible simultaneous eruption of all manner of demands and demonstrations and rallies that ride on the crest of waves called constitutional revision, which has promoted the basic rights and democratization. How would you cope with that?

[No] Their concern seems to stem from the possibility that the labor strife that followed the 29 June declaration might plague our society again and I am certain it will. However, I believe that it is a painful process that our society and system will have to go through to achieve maturity. Just as last year's labor disputes were overcome by our society's self-surviving ability and rationality, I am confident that we will overcome the feared eruption of another round of labor strife without letting it get out of hand. If the press and the intellectuals keep their balance and the middle class remains unwavering, the effect of the labor strife will be absorbed accordingly.

[Chon] How do you view the recent move by students and the situation on the campus as a whole? And what measures do you have in store for those who are left-leaning?

[No] It is a liberal democratic system and the people have commanded that I defend their community that elected me president. I will run politics in a way that responds to the left-leaning forces that resort to violence to get their way bith persuasion and generosity, taming them to the point where they can be accepted by the system. If they still remain unacceptable to the system even at this point, I will harshly deal with them according to the public consensus.

[Chon] Would you be so kind as to tell us your vision concerning North-South relations, including, of course, the unification question?

[No] The ultimate goal of nationalism in our country is to achieve freedom for the entire people in the nation to enjoy. This being the case, our policy toward North Korea and the unification question should be more creative and active. I would like to apply West Germany's "big brother policy" toward East Germany to North Korea, rendering it suitable to the situation prevailing in our country. What I mean is to take a tougher stand toward North Korea whenever necessary, to the point of exacting tears from North Korea, and shelter and forgive it when it comes to affairs that are tolerable. In this way, I plan to pave the way for peaceful unification before the end of my term of office without fail. My idea in this regard is to first sign a provisional agreement on the fundamental North-South relations and then push forward the cause of easing tension and of rendering a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula. I will exert efforts toward establishing a North-South community for cooperation by instituting a regularly-held North-South cabinet meeting and ultimately establishing a united democratic republic based on a unified constitution.

[Chon] What is your perspective on the world in 1988 and what kind of position do you think Korea will occupy in the world? Also, what direction do you think Korea will have to choose in the new year?

[No] As has been demonstrated by the success achieved in the U.S.-USSR arms control negotiations, the era of cold war seems to have been replaced with a new era of detente on a global scope. In addition, communist China and the Soviet Union will also take a more conciliatory stand toward each other and ease tension among the four major powers surrounding the Korean peninsula. Our country has now become mature enough to host the Olympics, the second country to do so on the Asian landmass. In terms of economic strength, our country now is ranked 20th. It has also become the 12th largest exporter in the world. We should make our country take a leading role as the central group in the international arena, not leave it a small country being kicked around by the major powers in the surrounding area.

[Chon] As a result of the stable prices that have continued for the past few years, the people's inflation-oriented psychology has grown less and their financial assets have greatly increased. However, a great amount of money was put in circulation before, during, and after the presidential election and land prices have risen. So, some fear that the foundation of stability might be shaken. In particular, those in the middle class who are known to hope for stability have now become fearful for this.

[No] The post-election inflation, the rise in the prices of agricultural products and other necessities of life, and fees for public services have all worked up to produce factors detrimental to the foundation of stability. Therefore, I regard stable prices as among the most urgent tasks in my economic policy.

[Chon] Many maintain that the government should drastically reduce directives to and control of business firms as the economy becomes increasingly internationalized and advanced.

[No] I agree. The economy can be most effective when it is run reasonably. Now is the time to drop the government-controlled development policy that was necessary when our country was dirt-poor and encourage a completely civilian-run economic policy. My theory is that under no circumstances should the economic reform be radical.

[Chon] What plan do you have in mind to deal with U.S. economic pressure on Korea to open its market to U.S. agricultural products, cigarettes, insurance companies? At the same time, how will you accommodate the call from the younger generation to take a new stand toward the United States?

[No] International interests are not unilateral. There is some give and take in them. A sovereign nation should calculate national interests with cold reason, while maintaining a stately attitude and identity. I believe that our country should play an appropriate role in the international community with open nationalism so as to become one among the groups of nations that play a central role in the international arena.

[Chon] You are known to like poetry and have a profound appreciation of the arts as a whole. What opinion do you have about the trendy arts by those who claim that even artists should participate in the real situation, this includes the so-called [national] division literature and mass arts?

[No] On the whole I view them in an affirmative perspective. It is inevitable that artistic expression must take various forms. It is quite natural for artists and intellectuals to express their images of the era in which they live through the arts.

[Chon] What measure do you think you will take without fail to ensure a successful holding of the Olympics?

[No] The larger the number of states that participate in the Olympics, the better. The next condition is to thoroughly prepare for the Olympics so as to make them sharpen the position of Korea among the world countries as clearly as possible.

[Chon] Do you plan to embark on summit diplomacy the moment you are sworn in? And is your policy toward Communist China on the right track?

[No] It is natural for a president to be directly involved in diplomacy. I will actively attempt to improve relations with Communist China. We have a very good opportunity for this attempt—the Olympics. I will do my best to ensure that our country can establish a sort of trade mission in Communist China following the Olympics.

[Chon] What do you think you will do to remain friendly with President Chon Tu-hwan?

[No] Officially, he will be former president and an elder statesman whose experience attained during his tenure as chief executive will have to be tapped for use in running state affairs. This is how I will try to remain friendly with him. Moreover, the friendship we have cultivated since childhood is priceless, I believe.

[Chon] We are anxious to know what role your wife, Mrs Kim Ok-suk, will play in your presidency.

[No] She will remain the same person she has been to date—that is, the person who holds home together with harmony and a sincere assistant to me. I hope the name by which the first lady [yonxbuin] is called will be replaced with some other name more intimate sounding and more common.

[Chon] Many consider that the way Chongwadae is run will be changed a great deal. What do you think of this comment?

[No] I believe that the way Chongwadae has been run to date has left a strong impression that it has excessively directed and led state affairs from above. Viewed in light of the political system that has the president as its center, it might be inevitable. Nevertheless, I will try to make it an office that has the properly working function of heeding and reflecting voices coming from below. For example, I will change the image of Chongwadae from a symbol of power into that of spokesman for the people.

No Tae-u Discusses Foreign Affairs, Elections
SK010425 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
1 Jan 88 pp 1, 5

[“Excerpts” of President-elect No Tae-u’s New Year’s interview; date and place not given]

[Text] Q: How do you feel about becoming a president elected by direct popular voting?

A: I’d like to extend my thanks to and respect for the people who wisely exercised their rights in a fair and democratic manner. The result of the election is not just a victory of myself or the party, but a victory of the people who long for the elimination of the old confrontational politics, and a leap forward to an advanced country amid stability.

Q: What do you think will be the difference between your new government and the past governments?

A: It is premature to speak of the difference at this time. I will try to continue the good things of our constitutional history, while doing away with or complementing the demerits.

Q: What do you think brought about your victory in the election?

A: The election was the one in which the people expressed their strong desire for absolute stability and gradual reform.

Q: What do you say to the opposition allegations that the election was a fraud?

A: I understand there were overheated election mood formed during the campaigning. But I am confident that the opposition candidates made freer and active election campaigns and that the media kept neutral attitudes.

Q: You became president on the votes of 36 percent of the electorate. How will you cope with the issue of attaining stability?

A: I will endeavor to buy the minds of the people with my honest and sincere attitudes to restoring political stability, converging opinions of many people.

Q: On what will you place first priority after inauguration?

A: As I have said, the first and foremost importance will be put on realizing national reconciliation. It is an historic mission imposed upon all of us to solve such issues as provincial antipathy, the 1980 Kwangju incident, and gaps between different classes and generations.

Q: What is the specific measure to realize national reconciliation?

A: It is elimination of authoritarian practices; rearranging functions of all intelligence agencies; rooting out corruption; suprapartisan operation of national affairs; civilianizing politics; large-scale amnesty; formation of a center for democratic reconciliation; and a vote of confidence in the president after the 1988 Olympics.

Q: How will you solve the 1980 Kwangju incident and eliminate corruption?

A: It will be to restore honors for the victims, offer mental and physical renumeration to the bereaved families, and build a monument to console the dead, to say a few.

Other specific measures will be worked out in a pan-nationally established center for democratic reconciliation.

As for the corruption, past scandals over money will be reexamined at the Assembly and if found guilty, anybody even the head of state, will be subject to punishment.

Q: What do you mean by saying suprapartisan operation of national affairs?

A: It means administering state affairs by building a consensus among various social forces. However, it doesn't mean a coalition cabinet.

Q: How will you realize a strong government, and what's your policy toward radical leftist elements?

A: Based on the spirit of democratic reconciliation, I will make efforts to persuade and forgive the elements, and improve political and social conditions so that they need not appear.

However, stern measures will be taken against the leftist forces, if they deny the efforts.

Q: What do you plan to do to keep your earlier promise for the vote of no confidence?

A: By it, I mean that I will submit to the people's judgement on the fulfillment of my pledges during the election. It will take the form of confidence voting at the Assembly or national referendum.

When the people discredit me as president, I may resign from the office.

Q: What is your policy toward north Korea?

A: Our nationalism should aim at providing greater liberty to all our people. Individual liberty should be enhanced for the 60 million people in south and north Korea.

I will try to reach a provisional accord on basic south-north Korea relations with the north Koreans, which would include a nonaggression pact.

For exchanges with the north in economic, social, cultural, sports, science, technology, education and arts, I will try to establish a regular ministerial forum between south and north Korea.

Q: What do you think of the proposed transfer of operational control, now in the hands of the United States, to the Republic of Korea, and how will you strengthen security arrangements with the United States and the ROK's self-defense?

A: I will try to secure the capacity for self-defense by the early 1990s by reducing the gap in military power between south and north Korea.

For this, I plan to develop a military structure and a command system suitable to Korea while developing an independent weapons system.

Q: You said you would like to visit China before you are sworn in. Do you have any idea of establishing formal relations with Beijing?

A: We are trying to initiate direct trade with China and exchange trade offices after the Seoul Olympics. We will try to establish formal ties after these developments.

As I have promised, I will develop regions on the western coast for exchanges and cooperation with China. They will also serve as a beachhead for establishing official ties.

On the issue of visiting Beijing, I think I will be able to make a comment later.

Q: What is your foreign policy toward the United States and Japan? What do you think of their recognition of Pyongyang in exchange for Seoul's recognition by China and the Soviet Union?

A: Korea and the United States will remain allies. I will try to improve Korean-American relations. I will also try to promote cooperation with Japan.

Cross-recognition will help make a breakthrough in our relations with the outside world after the Olympics.

For the cause of peace on the Korean peninsula and national unification, we can be flexible about cross-recognition.

When the nations friendly to south and north Korea cannot cross-recognize Seoul and Pyongyang at the same time, we can let our friends take an initiative toward Pyongyang.

Q: How will you ensure the Seoul Olympics will be successful?

A: Korea's tradition, culture, arts and economic development will be introduced to the outside world through the Games.

The Olympics will be made profitable through sales promotion of Korean products, development of new markets and inducement of foreign tourists into Korea.

Security will be tight for smooth operation of the Games. We will manage the Games successfully.

Q: How will you foil a possible north Korean attempt to sabotage the Olympics?

A: We are making efforts against a north Korean threat in diplomatic and military terms.

We are looking forward to a south-north Korean sports talks on sharing the Games.

Q: What will you do to promote freedom of the press?

A: I firmly believe liberal democracy is made possible only when the press is guaranteed absolute freedom.

I assure you again that the press will never be harassed by law-enforcement authorities. To protect the citizens' right to information, all information other than relating to national interest or security must be made public.

It is the independent judiciary branch and the individual citizen that can judge the press.

Chon Urges New Spirit of Reconciliation

SK010349 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
1 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] President Chon Tu-hwan yesterday predicted the nation will flawlessly accomplish two major tasks this year—the peaceful change of administration and the Seoul Olympics.

The nation will also attain the cherished goals of entering the developed world and reunifying the land before the 20th century is out, he said.

In his New Year message to the nation, the President said 1988 will be one of the most remarkable years of progress in Korean history, adding that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Korea's first democratic government.

He said the first peaceful change of administration in the nation's constitutional history is only 55 days away and 260 days remain before the Seoul Olympics.

President Chon then called on the people to renew their determination and assume new attitudes if they are to stride even more energetically forward and surmount the last remaining hurdles before the nation joins the ranks of advanced countries.

To that end, people should rid themselves of all vestiges of the old habit of confrontation and strife, and internalize a new spirit of trust and reconciliation fit for the new era so that social stability and grand national harmony will be promoted, he said.

Chon said he hopes the country, with national stability and cohesion further strengthened, will achieve dramatic progress in all fields in the New Year.

It is his fervent wish that the warm wind of freedom and prosperity from the south thaw the frigid north so that "our brethren in the north will share in the glory of hosting the Olympics and that they will draw much encouragement from this," he said.

Last year, the nation experienced a long series of severe trials, including a colossal natural disaster, massive labor disputes, political upheavals and hectic elections.

"However, we managed to successfully overcome and triumph over all such difficulties by dint of your wisdom and patience," he said.

In that way, Korea achieved dramatic political development, while sustaining economic stability and growth.

"In particular, we began preparing last year for the election of a new national leader who would be capable of accelerating our vigorous advance toward national prosperity and unification."

Therefore, the nation consolidated the foundations for even zgreater progress and prosperity, he said.

"Now that my term of office is nearing its end, I will concentrate all my energies on preserving national security in this period of transition as well as on ensuring an orderly transfer of the reins of government."

Kim Yong-sam Submits Letter of Resignation

SK020336 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0300 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Through his secretary, RDP President Kim Yong-sam handed in his letter of resignation from the presidency to Hwang Myong-su, chairman of the party congress. President Kim Yong-sam said that he is very sorry to the people and the party members for not having been able to end the military rule and to realize democracy, the desire of all the people, because he failed to realize a single opposition candidacy in the previous presidential election. He said that he resigns from the presidency, keenly feeling his responsibility for this to history and the people.

President Kim Yong-sam, who submitted his letter of resignation from the presidency, left for Pusan this morning and is scheduled to return to Seoul on 5 January, a day before the RDP Congress is held, after paying a visit to his hospitalized father.

Comments on Election Outlook

SK010354 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
1 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Kim Yong-sam seemed to have recovered, though maybe not fully, from the shock of his defeat in the Dec. 16 presidential election when he met with reporters for a year-end interview. RDP president was the same confident man as before when he predicted an opposition victory in the coming general elections. But he could not conceal a look of regret when he reflected on his unsuccessful presidential bid.

"If we had won the election, the nation would still have been in a festive mood. As it is, the people are depressed and gloomy. Whatever may have been the cause of the defeat, I felt terribly sorry. To bear my share of responsibility, I decided to put myself to a vote of confidence at a party national convention," Kim said.

After the presidential election, Kim said, he had considered for many nights resigning as president of the Reunification Democratic Party. But he refrained from "irresponsibly" leaving the party because "that would please the ruling camp most."

"I could not do what they (the government and its party) wanted to see most earnestly. So I decided to leave my fate at the mercy of party members. If they decided that I must resign, I will do it. But even in that case, I will endeavor as a lay party member to groom future party leaders," Kim said.

The RDP president said that if he regains his confidence at the Jan. 6 national convention, he will transform the party constitution by encouraging intraparty democracy and admitting new faces who can cater to highly educated voters.

"A post-election survey showed that I command overwhelming support among those well-educated voters who are in their 20s and 30s. So I plan to field young candidates in the coming general elections," Kim revealed.

"By emerging as the majority party in the elections," he went on, "the RDP will be able to virtually terminate military rule and satisfy the fervent popular aspiration for democracy."

As for the format and date of the elections, Kim sternly said, "It is an immutable party position that the elections be held under a small constituency system in April. It is what the people demand and we have to respect it."

Some RDP lawmakers, however, have been expressing, though not publicly, their preference for the current format in which two candidates are elected from each constituency. They view it as unrealistic to expect an opposition candidate to triumph over his rival from the ruling camp in a rural constituency.

"Some opposition candidates still dream of being elected with ease under the current format. They will have to awaken from the illusion of sharing Assembly seats with ruling party candidates. Democracy does not come with such ease," Kim said.

The opposition leader explained that people would come to have second thoughts when they choose only one candidate instead of two who can best represent them.

Kim put forward an optimistic outlook as to the elections. "The RDP will be born again after the national convention. I am sure of its rising to the place of a majority party with strength enough to topple the present government," he said.

Kim expected the government and its party to attempt to drive a wedge between opposition parties as they did in the presidential election for a sweeping victory.

"To guard against such a vicious plot, the opposition should form a common front. We should not let our failure in the presidential election recur," he emphasized.

For this, he called for an opposition integration with the RDP as the center. "All the democratic forces should come into the fold of the RDP which is the only orthodox opposition party. We have widely opened our door to those who were once our family members," Kim said.

"During the elections," he said, "all the corruption and irregularities committed during the Fifth Republic will be brought to light. The elections will teach those now in power a lesson."

Kim said the RDP should represent the opposition in the proposed negotiation on reviving the parliamentary election law, dismissing the idea of four-way talks which include the Party for Peace and Democracy and the New Democratic Republican Party.

"It is ridiculous to describe the current political situation as a four-party system. What are the other two except the ruling Democratic Justice Party and the RDP? Therefore, the negotiations should be between the DJP and the RDP," Kim said.

Concerning the rumor that he would seek an Assembly seat for the Chongno constituency, which is the so-called political heart of the nation, the RDP president said some of his aides suggested he do so to boost the morale of other candidates from the party. "But I have not yet given a clear answer to them," he said.

Kim refused to comment on his ties with Kim Tae-chung which have been sour since the latter's secession from the RDP for a presidential bid, revealing that he still has grievances against him.

When asked to forecast the political situation of the nation in the New Year, Kim said with a serious look, "The Dec. 16 presidential election was a contest between a man who ought to be elected president and a man who ought not to be. As the latter won the election, I cannot help saying that the choice was a misfortune for the nation. I think the next government is doomed to an unhappy ending."

Kim Tae-chung Gives New Year's Interview

SK010419 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
1 Jan 88 p 2

[“Summary” of Party for Peace and Democracy, PPD, President Kim Tae-chung’s 31 December Press Conference at his office in Yoido, Seoul]

[Text] Q: Do you expect there will be a repeat of last year’s massive street protests and social, political unrest this year?

A: It totally depends on how sincerely President-elect No Tae-u fulfills his June 29 democratization proposals. (Apparently trying to change his image as a hardline struggler) But our party will lead a campaign for democracy in a peaceful way in line with the “no-violence, no-resistance” principle.

Q: Have you thought of retiring from politics since your defeat in the Dec. 16 presidential election?

A: I feel really sorry I lost despite the people’s enthusiastic support. But I have never thought of voluntarily retiring. If necessary, I plan to call for a party national convention after the coming general parliamentary election to vote on all key party affairs, including the issue of my party leadership.

Q: Are you planning to run in the next presidential election?

A: I have not thought about that, either.

Q: There are foreign news reports that No will visit China early this year. Do you foresee progress in Korea’s relations with China in coming years?

A: I can not give a prediction about that. But the two countries’ relations should be improved.

Q: The PPD has been claiming that the Dec. 16 presidential election was rigged and is trying to collect evidence. If you prove the ruling party committed fraud, are you going to call for invalidation of the election result?

A: We will decide on our course of action only after determining the extent of the election fraud committed by the ruling side. As you know, Richard Nixon was forced to give up his presidency in the wake of the Watergate Scandal.

Q: Are you confident of beating Kim Yong-sam’s Reunification Democratic Party in the coming general National Assembly election?

A: We are optimistic about it. We got inspiration from the outcome of the Dec. 16 election. At the nation’s 245 ballot-counting stations, No won in 123 places and I in 70, against 35 for Kim Yong-sam and 17 for Kim Chong-pil.

We are trying to recruit many figures from various walks of life, including college professors, religious leaders and youths. I hope it will help polish our party’s image and reinforce its structure for the coming election.

Q: When do you want the parliamentary election to be held?

A: I want it in April. A February poll (proposed by the ruling party) is too soon. In January and February, we are going to devote all our energy to staging campaigns to reveal the fraud committed by the ruling party in the Dec. 16 election.

If the ruling side tries to push a February election through, it will create another political stalemate. Many “fighters for democracy” who are in prison should be also given a chance to run in the election. For this, amnesty and restoration of their civil rights should be made before the election.

Q: What type of constituency system do you prefer for the parliamentary election?

A: In principle, we favor a small constituency system in which one lawmaker is elected per electoral district. But we would accept a different type if it is guaranteed it would not onesidedly favor the ruling party or others.

Q: No proposed meetings between him and opposition leaders to discuss matters related to the general election. Will you accept his proposal?

A: I will sit down with anyone if it is to discuss steps to ensure fairness in the election.

Q: Do you plan to seek a National Assembly seat?

A: I will decide after consultation with my aides and party members.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Delivers New Year's Message

*BK311512 Kuala Lumpur Television Network 1
in Malay 1237 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's 1988 New Year's address—recorded]

[Text] Peace be upon you! We thank Almighty God for his blessings that have enabled us to enter the new year of 1988. We are also grateful to him for the various successes we have achieved and the challenges we have overcome throughout 1987.

However, before we look forward let us look back to review the lessons and guidelines from events that took place in the year we are going to leave. The year 1987 saw several significant and challenging events, some of which were brought about by our own actions. But the majority of the events were caused by foreigners who were beyond our control.

The country's economy was hit by a recession as a result of the drop in prices of all our raw material exports. Consequently, our revenues also dropped, which in turn affected national development. For example, lack of demand for our tin resulted in the closure of our tin mines and unemployment of tin miners. The decreasing number of our development projects has not only brought about unemployment, but also a drop in the demand for manufactured goods. Contractors, entrepreneurs, small and big businessmen had to suffer losses. Skilled and unskilled workers had to lose their jobs. Food stall owners lost their customers. The state had no means to raise civil servants' salaries. The number of housing and car loans also decreased. Hotels and restaurants could not attract customers. In short, the economic recession had a bad impact on people of all walks of life in Malaysia.

During such an economic recession, certain people wanted to get rich quickly and easily by turning their attention to the stock market. Share prices suddenly increased regardless of the performance of the corporations listed in the stock market. People began to forget the stock market crash prompted by the Pan Electric Industries scandal [in Singapore in 1986]. People also forgot the nature of the stock market as a place to accumulate capital. These were followed by the global stock market crash in New York, London, Paris, Hong Kong, and other places which produced the sudden losses of millions of ringgit and dollars. Some of the stockholders committed suicide or murdered their brokers. Malaysia was not spared by this man-made disaster. Share prices plummeted in our country despite the fact that some companies recorded a healthy profit. The majority of stockholders once again suffered very serious

losses. They were unable to repay their banks and had to sell their properties. Each one of them scrambled here and there to seek safe haven.

Ladies and gentlemen! In October, we detected the growing racial tension when a soldier went berserk for no reason and people considered it as the beginning of racial riots. Kuala Lumpur became quiet and deserted when its citizens were too scared to go out of their houses. People were stockpiling food and commercial activities stopped, resulting in losses. In the end, the government had to cancel all rallies and detain those who caused the tension. After that, the situation returned to normal and economic activities resumed. The people were relieved and did not have to live in tension.

Beyond our borders, some people deliberately tried to destroy Malaysia's good image. The fact that the government's action was welcomed by the majority of people and normalcy returned in our country was never reported in overseas media. Realizing that Malaysia needs foreign investment to provide job opportunities for the unemployed, foreign media and certain organizations and individuals deliberately painted a gloomy and incorrect picture of the real situation in Malaysia. They alleged that Malaysian people were living in terror, that Christians were jailed, that democracy no longer existed in Malaysia. However, these groups' efforts ended in total failure. Malaysia was still able to pull itself through. Such are the challenging events of 1987. This sacred country was unable to make an economic recovery in time because of the irresponsible and greedy attitude of certain groups in our society. If we want 1988 to be a better and happier year, we must not do things which will harm us in the end.

For this reason, we must make a new year's resolution of not hurting the feelings of ethnic groups existing in the country. We must not exaggerate small issues and blow them out of proportion. As for serious issues, we must sit down and discuss them behind closed doors. The media is not the forum for us to argue and solve the problem.

Ladies and gentlemen! The Malaysian people should not destroy the country's good image among foreigners. Students studying overseas, whether they be Muslims or non-Muslims, should not tell falsehoods and defame the country. They must remember that their actions will only lead to the decline of capital investment in their own country. This will in turn lead to fewer job opportunities in the country and they will become the next victims.

The unemployed must also make a new year's resolution to be ready to work and not be too choosy with the type of work they want to do. In fact, there are still many job opportunities available in our country. This can be seen from the arrival of foreigners coming to seek jobs in our country or encroach upon our territorial waters.

For those who are already working, I urge them to place high priority on productivity. Among the developing nations in Southeast Asia, Malaysia has the lowest productivity. Our life depends on our output of goods and services. In this modern time, competition is inevitable. If our goods are expensive and of low quality, we will never be able to sell them. As such, our corporations will go into decline and our salaries will not increase. Worse still, unemployment will ensue when our corporations go bankrupt for making no profits. To reiterate, let me say that investors will not invest their capital, and job opportunities will not be available for the unemployed if the investors know our workers' productivity is low. Salary is clearly related to productivity. A low wage does not lead to higher productivity if our output is still low. The same is true with a high salary—our productivity will not decrease if our output increases in proportion with salary. Strictly speaking, the level of salary is not determined by the workers' demand, but by the initiative of the people who pay the salary. Such initiative depends on a high level of sales when high productivity is coupled with high quality. Therefore, a conscientious worker will work harder to improve productivity in 1988.

Managers should also improve their ability. If they are not good at managing money, equipment, and manpower, all foreign assistance will not lead to higher productivity. There are indications of low managerial achievements in Malaysia. Therefore, they should make efforts to improve their ability.

Excessive speculation must also be reduced if not completely stopped. We have found that the financial problems faced by the majority of our businessmen are caused by their excessive speculation, especially in the stock market. When stock prices fall, they always face big problems. The stock market is aimed at accumulating capital belonging to the people in general and the expansion of business. The fluctuations of share prices should be related to the performance of the companies and their assets. Action to raise or lower share prices in total disregard to the performance of the companies will sooner or later bring disaster.

For this reason, it will be better for these stock market speculators to reduce their activities. They should make a new year resolution of using their energy, time, and thoughts to manage their business properly.

The government has also made its own resolutions. It will continue to keep its expenditure under control to avoid overspending so economic development can be further intensified. It will also make efforts for reducing the unemployment rate in the country. It will take stronger measures in ensuring security in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen! On the occasion of the 1988 New Year, let us hope we will be able to solve the majority of the country's problems. While we are resigned to the

wishes of Almighty God, we must not forget that such resignation does not mean we sit idly. All of us must make greater efforts for the sake of our beloved country. May peace be upon you!

Opposition Scraps Plans for Islamic Front

*BK010640 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0556 GMT 1 Jan 88*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 1 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The opposition PAS (Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party) has canceled plans to set up an Islamic front to promote Muslim unity in the country.

A party source told BERNAMA Friday the proposed front, mooted by party Vice-President Nakhaie Ahmad several months ago, was not endorsed by the party's Central Committee.

PAS made the decision after realizing that the proposed move—aimed at pooling Islamic resources of individuals and organizations, including political parties, to strengthen the unity of the Muslim community would only benefit the ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO), the source said.

"PAS does not recognize UMNO as an Islamic party, hence if UMNO is involved in the Islamic front, it will mean that PAS has acknowledged UMNO (as being an Islamic party)," the source added.

When he announced the idea, Nakhaie said Muslim unity based solely on race had not been effective and it was therefore necessary for it to be based on religion.

Various quarters responded positively to the proposal and had asked PAS to provide more details.

Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed, who is UMNO president, had said UMNO was willing to join the front if PAS did not have any political motive.

Revolutionary Party Chairman's Greetings

*BK011709 (Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy
in Malay 1215 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[1988 New Year's greetings from Malay Nationalist Revolutionary Party of Malaya Central Committee Chairman Abdullah C.D. entitled: "Widen the Patriotic and Democratic Forces Struggle Against Mahathir's Fascist Clique's Actions"]

[Text] On behalf of the Malay Nationalist Revolutionary Party of Malaya [MNRPM], I extend 1988 New Year's greetings to all members of the MNRPM, members of the Malayan People's Army, especially the 10th Regiment, and also to all the patriotic and democratic forces throughout the country with the hope that the new year will bring greater successes in our struggle toward full independence, democracy, and freedom.

The year 1987 has passed and it left us with more experiences and wisdom. As a result, in welcoming 1988 it is only appropriate for us to reminisce just a little about those incidents which we underwent during that year so that those experiences and knowledge can be utilized to the fullest toward achieving greater success during this new year.

During the past year, the situation within and outside the country has brought much benefit to the country's patriotic and democratic struggles. In the international arena, the sharp decline of the capitalist world's economy showed no signs of recovery. On the other hand, there are indications of impending new crises cropping up much earlier than expected. Global socialist solidarity is strengthening. The socialist economy is further progressing and improving without even facing any crisis. The opposing strength against imperialism and reactionary forces is mounting. Simultaneously, the patriotic and democratic struggle within our country is becoming more turbulent. This turbulence is further threatening the bureaucratic and comprador capitalists who are represented by Mahathir's fascist clique.

During the past year, the MNRPM widened rapidly and its influence has gathered momentum while its propaganda was getting the support of the wide masses. This is further encouraging all its cadres to become more interested in intensifying the MNRPM's struggle. The most striking incident which occurred last year was Mahathir's fascist clique's major crackdown against his critics under the Internal Security Act, giving the excuse of trying to prevent the outbreak of racial violence. This is one of the Mahathir fascist clique's numerous tricks to relieve itself from its current isolated position. Its fascist action also is directed toward oppressing all its critics in opposition parties, social organizations, and Barisan Nasional leaders from UMNO [United Malays National Organisation] itself, the Malaysian Chinese Association, and Perak. This antipeople and antidemocratic action has turned our country into a dictatorial country. The objective of this major crackdown and arrests is to punish all our country's patriotic and democratic forces. The Mahathir fascist clique's action is being strongly protested by local and foreign circles. The MNRPM strongly condemns the accursed Mahathir fascist clique's dictatorial action.

Our country's patriotic and democratic forces' struggle had an encouraging experience last year. Their united fronts are continuously widening and threatening Mahathir's fascist clique. Each of the clique's dirty tricks is being exposed so much that the clique finds no other tricks to conjure up. The struggle against corruption and malpractices such as in the case of the United Engineers Malaysia is also being widely exposed. This struggle against corruption and malpractice is continuing widely within and outside the parliament. People are demanding the establishment of an independent board to carry out investigations concerning corruption and malpractices. But the peoples' demand was flatly turned down by

Mahathir's fascist regime without even giving any reasonable explanation. Due to this, dissatisfaction among the people is widening. The huge financial scandal by Mahathir's fascist clique has disappointed all the multi-racial working class in our country. They are demanding that these disgraceful people involved be punished accordingly. But Mahathir's fascist clique is not exposing those people involved. On the contrary, it is protecting them through various means. The New Economic Policy [NEP] which the clique loudly announced has failed miserably to bridge the rich-poor gap. Only a handful of bloated and greedy bureaucratic and comprador capitalists have benefitted from this program. The unequal and unjust distribution of the country's wealth from the NEP forms one of the major factors toward racial polarization. Besides this, the fascist regime's "Look East Policy" has brought about an economic disaster for all levels of the country's population especially for the rural workers. The "Look East Policy", in fact, is making the bureaucratic and comprador capitalists wealthier while the people are suffering at their expense. This policy is making our country dependent on the other major industrialized nations, especially Japan, which has fully utilized and taken advantage of our workers, leaving them bone-dry. Since World War II, these major industrialized nations have faced eight economic crises and as a result of these economic depressions, our country has been faced with the worst economic difficulties. As a result of this, our country's economy is facing harder times.

This has caused numerous companies and industries to close their businesses and the unemployment rate continues to be on the upswing. The number of unemployed graduates has spiralled to more than 50,000. The national treasury is in the red and national debt has risen to a disastrous level compared to national income. Major primary commodity prices are sluggish even though there is a slight increase in sales. FELDA [Federal Land Development Authority] settlers and their other counterparts from the other land development schemes are living in poverty and so it is with the other small-scale farmers throughout the nation.

All this resulted in people venting their dissatisfaction with Mahathir's fascist ruling clique and in trying to silence the people from expressing their dissatisfaction. The fascist clique increased the enforcement of numerous anti-democracy and anti-people acts which are in total opposition to basic human rights. This action by the Mahathir fascist regime has been strongly condemned by all the patriotic and democratic groups nationwide including UMNO members. Because of this, in every nook and cranny of the country, patriotic and democratic groups are demanding that the Mahathir fascist clique cease all those fascist actions and review the country's current Constitution so that the regime cannot act further according to its whims and fancies. The Barisan Nasional is facing a split among its components and UMNO split into two major factions just before its 24 April annual general assembly party elections. During

ns, the Mahathir fascist clique won by the skin because of its nefarious activities. The clique smuggled in phantom members during the assembly. In opposing the Mahathir clique's twelve UMNO divisional leaders filed a sum- the federal High Court against UMNO in an declare the general assembly party election null. Currently, the Mahathir clique is facing split among the Ghafar Baba, Anwar Ibrahim, si Junid's factions. This split is widening daily Mahathir fascist clique's situation has become able.

indicates that the Mahathir fascist clique has run ty tricks. The clique was of the opinion that its could suppress and get rid of the country's and democratic forces. This is its subjective truth, the road for the clique is nearing a dead currently struggling for its life. The MNRPM is t that if the country's patriotic and democratic continue to widen their struggle appropriately e concrete situation in the country, the final will definitely be ours.

in welcoming the 1988 New Year, the MNRPM its members and all the patriotic and democ- res, including those in the Barisan Nasional, to widen the united front in its struggle against the ir dictatorial fascist clique through various or the sake of a truly independent, democratic e country.

Abdullah C.D. Chairman, MNRPM Central tee; 1 January 1988.

Singapore

on Lee Kuan Yew New Year's Message
258 Singapore Domestic Service in English
MT 31 Dec 87

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, in his new year message, says ore has had 1 full year of economic recovery this its growth rate was 8.6% compared to last year's But, the prime minister says the outlook for 1988 growth than this year, between 5 and 6% is ed. But, Singaporeans can face next year with ence if they and their leaders work intelligently, lly, and in cooperation.

view of 1987, Mr Lee says because it took steps to ts, our growth improved and became broad based beginning of this year. Manufacturing led the ry, growing by 16%. As a result, transport and nications grew by 9%. After a lag of about 6 s, supporting sectors like commerce, financial and s services also improved. Only construction con- to contract.

Mr Lee says this year's 8.6% growth is well above our estimated long-term growth rate of 4 to 6%. But, this year's higher-than-usual growth is special. Four and half percent came from labor productivity increase which was higher than average. This was because labor and machines were better used with the economic recovery. One percent was from re-employment of many workers retrenched during the recession. He says these are bonus increases and cannot be repeated. Another 1% was from foreign labor increase which could be repeated only at considerable social cost. The remaining 12% was from a rise in our indigenous labor force.

Turning to the new year, Mr Lee says that if there had not been a setback in the international environment, we would have forecast about 7% growth for the year. Unfortunately, the worldwide stock market crash in October has changed the outlook. Private forecasters have scaled down U.S. growth projection in 1988 from 3.8 to 1.9%.

In Singapore, the index of leading indicators has declined since September. This index predicts the performance of the real economy in about 6 to 9 months time. The outlook is a slowed down growth in 1988, especially in the second half. So, a growth of 5 to 6% for next year can be expected. But if the economies of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development do worse than expected, Singapore's growth will be further retarded.

Mr Lee says whatever the problems in 1988, the younger generation of Singaporeans and their leaders have shown that they can work together and overcome unexpected setbacks. They have responded quickly, rationally, and in cooperation. The leaders took tough unpopular measures; they cut Central Provident Fund contributions rate from 50 to 35%, they persuaded workers to accept wage restraint for 2 years until recovery gets under way. Mr Lee says with their capability proven, Singaporeans can face 1988 with confidence.

The prime minister says 1987 has been a year of significant achievement in other aspects. Many Singaporeans have taken part actively in the national agenda discussions. They and the younger leaders are developing a shared view of our common future. They recognize that before we become a nation, Singaporeans must first unite as a people regardless of race, language, or religion. We are now conscious that our domestic issues can cause tension and friction with our immediate neighbors, and our discussions or actions are misunderstood and taken (?amiss).

The Marxist plot has shown that communism and communalism have not gone away. They can reappear and threaten us in new forms. Mr Lee says that the younger ministers have taken major initiatives which will have a

long-term impact on our life. These include change in (?public school) population policy, the setting up of town councils and independent schools, and the bill for group [words indistinct].

The prime minister wishes all a happy and prosperous new year.

Cambodia

Heng Samrin Hosts Reception for Najibullah

BK301533 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1332 GMT
30 Dec 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 30—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, hosted a warm reception here this evening in honour of the high-level Afghan party and state delegation headed by Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and president of the State Council of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Present at the reception were Hun Sen, Politburo member of the PRPK CC, premier and minister for foreign affairs; Say Phuthang, Politburo member of the PRPK CC and vice-president of the State Council; Chea Soth, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Kong Sam-ol, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Soy Keo, deputy-minister of national defence; Dit Munti, deputy-minister for foreign affairs; and other Kampuchean high-ranking officials.

Mohammad Shafi Azimi, Afghan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Kampuchea, was also present.

The two leaders exchanged speeches at the function.

Heng Samrin Speech

BK010928 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0436 GMT
31 Dec 87

[Text] Phnom Penh, 31 Dec (SPK)—The presence of the highest-level delegation of the Afghan party and state is the lively reflection of the bonds of friendship and fraternal solidarity between the two fraternal countries, said Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the PRK, during a reception hosted yesterday evening in honor of the Afghan high-level party and state delegation.

Victims respectively of the barbarous regime of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary and that of Hafijullah Amin, he went on, the fraternal Cambodian and Afghan peoples, though living far away from each other, have a complete identity of views and stand and the same determination to frustrate all maneuvers of imperialism, expansionism, and their lackeys aimed at sabotaging the revolutionary

gains of each of these two countries in defense of the national independence, freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of each country. The sufferings of the Afghan people are the sufferings of the Cambodian people. The victories of the Afghan people are the victories of the Cambodian people.

We are proud of and delighted at the brilliant successes won in all fields by the Afghan party, government, and people since the April 1978 Revolution despite the immense difficulties caused by natural calamities and the hostile activities of the enemy. The common decision of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to withdraw six divisions of the Soviet volunteer troops from Afghanistan shows that the Afghan revolution is advancing steadily and is irreversible, which greatly contributes to the common efforts of the peoples of South Asia and Asia-Pacific for regional and international peace and security.

During the past nearly 9 years, the solidarity, friendship, and relations of cooperation between the Cambodian and Afghan people as well as between the latter and the three Indochinese peoples experienced a remarkable development. The good-will initiatives of the three Indochinese countries and those of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan aimed at resolving regional problems contribute to boosting the trend toward dialogue for peace, stability, cooperation, and friendship in South Asia, Asia-Pacific, and the world.

Once more, on behalf of the Cambodian party, government, and people we fully support the goodwill of the Republic of Afghanistan to settle problems through negotiations and to reduce tension in the region. We highly appreciate and favorably welcome all decisions and measures put forth by Najibullah during the second national conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan held on 18 October 1987, as well as the success of the recent Loya Jirgah [tribal assembly] session.

Dictated by goodwill and a lofty sense of responsibility before the destiny of the country, Heng Samrin went on, the PRK proclaimed on 27 August 1987 its policy of national reconciliation and on 8 October 1987 its five-point declaration on the political solution to the Cambodian problem. This goodwill continues to win the warm support of peace- and justice-loving international public opinion the world over, and produces positive results. The historic meeting between Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk in France showed the success of our national reconciliation policy. For our part, we welcome all negotiations, either bilateral or multilateral, if they are aimed at achieving a reasonable settlement of the Cambodian problem.

We resolutely support the just struggle of the Lao people in defense of their country's sovereignty and territorial integrity against the provocations of the Thai militarists,

and demand that Thailand immediately cease all its hostile acts and strictly respect the Lao-Thai agreement signed in 1978. [year as received]

We support and warmly welcome the signing of the USSR-U.S. treaty on the elimination of intermediate and short-range missiles, seeing in it a world-scale historic event and a response to the the aspiration of mankind to live in peace and to ward off nuclear war.

Najibullah Reception Speech

LD010719 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 1 Jan 88

["Najib's Speech at Reception in Phnom Penh"—
BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, December 31, BAKHTAR—On this opportune occasion I wish to express profound gratitude of myself and my accompanying delegation for the warm welcome granted to us and for the friendly words expressed about my country and my people, said Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan at a reception given in his honour by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in Phnom Penh.

Our visit to your ancient land is taking place at a time when the peoples of our two Asian countries Afghanistan and Kampuchea have left behind the years of difficulties and sufferings, and are busy overcoming the effects of the unpleasant legacy of the past.

Today the question of putting an end to the regional conflicts, without which a secure world can not exist, is pressingly facing the world community at large. The idea that political solution and the policy of national reconciliation should play a determining role in solving regional conflicts, is strengthening in the international arena, said Dr. Najibullah.

The international community and all the progressive forces of our planet have welcomed with great interest and approval the programme of the Government of Kampuchea on the fundamentals of the political solution of the problem of Kampuchea. This serious and wise political decision on readiness for national reconciliation and reasonable compromise is aimed at achieving lofty goals that are peace in Kampuchea and fulfillment of the long cherished demands of the people of Kampuchea for building a new society in peace and harmony. This programme is a step forward for the solution of the political situations which have developed during long years in the country and in South East Asia. A large number of countries and governments have welcomed the effort of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea for the solution of the conflict situation in the country, through peaceful political means.

The initiatives of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have provided favorable ground for constructive dialogue among the parties involved.

The state of Afghanistan, and the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, are warmly welcoming the constructive proposals of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. These measures are strengthening our believe and resolve in the truth of the policy of national reconciliation which is being implemented in Afghanistan. Our countries and governments shall closely cooperate in the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation. These cooperations can have a wide sphere, and can involve the exchange of experience to joint and coordinated activities in the international arena.

Afghanistan supports the proposal of Kampuchea for inviting an international conference for drafting guarantees for the implementation of the agreements, the independence of Kampuchea and peace in South East Asia. The convening of such a conference can serve as an example for similar international gatherings aimed at seeking peaceful ways for the solution of other hot beds of tension on our planet, the Afghan president noted.

Dear friends:

Our visit to Kampuchea is taking place following our visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. There, we extensively evaluated the major global problems including international peace and security, the reduction of nuclear weapons in the light of the promising results of the latest summit meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan and the signing of the treaty on the elimination of medium- and short-range nuclear missiles as a major step in creation of a favorable atmosphere for solution of the regional conflicts, and assessed the situation around Afghanistan and Kampuchea and other problems.

We resolutely expressed our opposition to the interventionist and warmongering policy of imperialism which is aimed at destabilization in Afghanistan and in Kampuchea and exacerbation of tension in the region of South West and South East Asia. We voiced our hope for the establishment of peace in Asia and the Pacific and in the Indian Ocean region. Afghanistan endorses the proposal on security for Asia and commends the joint struggle of the peoples of Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam. We consider the annual meetings of the ministers of foreign affairs of these three countries as useful in consolidation of stability in the region and support the time frame for the return of the voluntary soldiers of Vietnam from Kampuchea until the year 1990, on the basis of the programme of national reconciliation in your country.

I deem it necessary to express once again the resolute support of the Republic of Afghanistan for the policy of national reconciliation and especially for the Paris declaration which has been issued by Comrade Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk.

We are hopeful that the next round of these negotiations in January in Paris, will be crowned with greater success.

We believe that reconciliation is the only logical path for putting an end to bloodshed.

Dr. Najibullah said further that as a result of our flexibility and compromises, the Geneva negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan with the participation of the representative of the United Nations secretary general, is continuing.

Recently we have issued a declaration on the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union. We have taken other steps as well, and are hopeful that the next round of negotiations in Geneva would be the final one.

Even right now the Soviet forces which have come to our country on the basis of the invitation of the legitimate Government of Afghanistan to repulse the aggressions against the independence and national sovereignty of our country, have left 13 provinces and are not taking part in the operations against armed opposition extremist groups.

Cooperation Pact Signed

LD312130 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] A cooperation agreement was concluded today in Phnom Penh, the capital of the PRK, between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRK.

The agreement was signed by Sakhi Daneshjo, adviser to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dit Munti, PRK deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Afghan Delegation End Visit

LD311826 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 31 Dec 87

[excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah and his accompanying delegation left the PRK for the homeland this morning.

At Phnom Penh Airport Esteemed Najibullah and his accompanying delegation were seen off by Heng Samrin, secretary general of the KPRP and president of the PRK Council of State, other party and government personalities, and the diplomatic corps in Cambodia.

Government Condemns Thai Aggression

BK010725 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0427 GMT
1 Jan 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 1 Jan (SPK)—The PRK demands that Thailand put an end to its hostile acts against Laos, withdraw its troops from Lao areas that it has illegally occupied, and positively respond to the good-will proposals of the LPDR to settle all disputes through peaceful negotiations.

This demand was expressed in a statement issued on 31 December by the spokesman of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After denouncing the recent Thai air raids and attacks against Laos in Sayaboury Province, the statement stressed:

These acts of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries laid bare their pan-Thai policy against Laos as already demonstrated when Thailand sent its troops to occupy three Lao hamlets in Sayaboury Province in June 1984.

The above-mentioned acts encroach upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the LPDR, particularly the Lao-Thai joint communique signed in 1979, and run counter to the fervent aspirations of the Lao and Thai peoples for peace, good neighborliness, and cooperation. These acts also go against the trend of dialogue in Southeast Asia and the world.

The PRK reaffirms its unreserved support for the correct position full of goodwill of the LPDR, and demands that the disputes between the two countries be settled through peaceful negotiations. The Thai authorities must positively respond to the good-will proposals of the LPDR.

Paper Comments on Laos-Thailand Conflict

BK301159 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0417 GMT
30 Dec 87

["Thailand Should Immediately Stop Its Provocations Against Laos"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 30 Dec (SPK)—The criminal acts undertaken by Thai ultra-rightist reactionary forces against the LPDR represent a gross violation of this country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, notes the biweekly PRACHEACHON. The central organ of the KPRP continues:

These Thai activities run counter to the general tendency in the region and in the world and the sacred aspirations of the Lao and Thai people. They take place at a time when the world situation is moving in favor of peaceful settlement of all conflicting problems and when the three Indochinese countries and other countries are devoting themselves to making Southeast Asia a zone of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation, and progress. These hostile acts threaten peace and security of people in the region, are prejudicial to the fundamental principles of international relations, and violate the UN Charter and the basic principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

Imbued with good will and responding to the aspirations of the two countries' people, the LPDR has successively put forward initiatives and constructive proposals aimed at settling through peaceful means existing problems in the relations between the two countries, and has always expressed its desire to live in good terms with Thailand.

Unfortunately, it is regrettable that the Thai ultra-rightist circles have sought every means to worsen bilateral relations by resorting to force against Laos.

Being comrades-in-arms of the fraternal Lao people, the paper writes, the Cambodian people warmly support the LPDR's good will to settle this conflict with Thailand and demand that the latter immediately stop its hostile provocations.

Amity Group Head Greets SRV Counterpart

*BK270823 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Dec 87*

[Text] Comrade Sam Sundoeun, chairman of the Cambodia-Vietnam Friendship Association, sent a message of greetings to Comrade Pham Trung Tue, chairman of the Vietnam-Cambodia Friendship Association, on the 43d founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA].

The message said: Over the past more than 40 years under the banner of the Communist Party of Vietnam and with the assistance and support of the people, the VPA has fought courageously and made all kinds of sacrifice for independence, socialism, and the noble proletarian internationalist duty.

All the great achievements won—including the victory of the August revolution, the victories over the Japanese fascists and U.S. imperialists which led to the realization of independence and reunification of the fatherland advancing toward socialism, and the victory over the war of aggression waged by the Chinese expansionists on Vietnam's northern border—have brought the VPA greater prestige and fame all over the world.

For nearly 9 years now, the Cambodian land has been restored and rebuilt, and has made rapid all-round progress. Cambodian society has experienced a wonderful rebirth, and is making firm steps forward. During all these nearly 9 years, the Vietnamese Army volunteers have continued to help and support the Cambodian Armed Forces and people in defending their national independence, protecting their revolutionary gains, and frustrating all enemy maneuvers against the rebirth of the Cambodian people. Presently, the Vietnamese Army volunteers continue to closely cooperate with the Cambodian People's Army along the Cambodian-Thai border in defending the western part of Cambodia and ensuring peace and stability for the Cambodian people throughout the country.

Under the leadership of the KPRP, the Cambodian people highly appreciate the VPA as an immortal army. The heroism of the VPA has become an example, a source of encouragement for nations fighting for liberation, independence, democracy, and social progress.

On this occasion, the whole Cambodian people would like to express warm thanks and gratitude to the fraternal Vietnamese party, Army, and people for wholeheartedly assisting and supporting the Cambodian revolution and people in toppling the genocidal regime and in restoring and rebuilding the country. At the same time, I would like to express feelings of revolutionary brotherhood and profound gratitude to the Vietnamese fathers, mothers, and sisters for sending their beloved sons, brothers, and husbands to carry out their proletarian internationalist obligation on Cambodian soil. I also wish the heroic VPA more and greater victories in the defense and construction of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland. I wish the Vietnamese Army volunteers who are fulfilling their proletarian internationalist duty in Cambodia more and more brilliant victories. May the bonds of solidarity and special friendship and the all-round cooperation between Cambodia and Vietnam last forever.

Koy Buntha Greets Soviet Defense Minister

*BK310440 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1200 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Comrade Koy Buntha, PRK minister of national defense, sent a message of greetings to Comrade General Dimitriy Timofeyevitch Yazov, USSR minister of defense, on the occasion of the 65th founding anniversary of the Soviet Union.

The message reads:

Dear comrade, on the 65th anniversary of the founding of the USSR, on behalf of all cadres and combatants of the entire KPRAF and in my own name, I would like to extend my warmest and most sincere greetings to you and best wishes to all leading comrades in the Soviet Ministry of Defense and all cadres and combatants in the fraternal Soviet Army and Navy. May all of you enjoy the best of health, great strength, and new and greater successes in the implementation of your noble present and future tasks.

I would like to highly appreciate the great development and successes won by the Soviet people and Armed Forces during the past 65 years in building the world's first socialist state. I am firmly confident that under the correct leadership of the CPSU, the bonds of solidarity, friendship, and all-round cooperation between our two peoples and armies will be steadily strengthened and developed.

On this occasion, I would like wish you and, through you, all cadres and combatants of the excellent Soviet Army and Navy the best of health and more and greater successes in fulfilling the noble tasks entrusted by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Most sincere regards.

7th Annual KUFNCD Meeting Closes

*BK010800 Phnom Penh SPK in French
0424 GMT 1 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh, 1 Jan (SPK)—The meeting to conclude the KUFNCD National Council closed in Phnom Penh yesterday afternoon after 4 days of work.

A resolution was adopted; it called on all strata of the population and Overseas Cambodians to contribute as best they could to the reconstruction of the country. It also expressed the determination to successfully carry out all strategic tasks defined by the fifth congress of the KPRP.

Addressing the meeting participants in the morning, Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen took stock of the international situation and current problems around Cambodia.

During the closing ceremony, a "Labor Medal" of the Council of Ministers was conferred on the Front Committee of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, banners of the KUFNCD National Council on 5 units, and certificates of praise on 42 other units and 38 individuals.

Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Chea Sim, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council, and Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, were present.

Sihanouk, Hun Sen To Meet in France, Not DPRK

*BK041319 Hong Kong AFP in English
1300 GMT 4 Jan 88*

[By Michael Adler]

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Jan 4 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has confirmed that he will meet Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen this month in France, rather than in North Korea, the prince's office here said Monday.

Meanwhile, in a cable made public here, Prince Sihanouk said he will insist on a "precise schedule" for a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia when he next meets the head of the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh regime.

His office said the prince would meet Mr. Hun Sen in France in January, confirming reports he had reversed a decision to hold the meeting in the North Korean capital Pyongyang "away from the press" rather than near Paris as arranged initially.

The agreed date of January 27 "may even be advanced," a spokesman said.

In a cable released by his office, the prince said "two vital points" were non-negotiable: a Vietnamese withdrawal and replacing Hanoi's client state with a "non-communist, non-socialist" neutral, French-democracy-style government.

Prince Sihanouk said in the December 29 telegram to his son Prince Norodom Rannarit in Bangkok that he wished to dispel concern that Vietnam and its backer the Soviet Union were using the first-ever Cambodian peace talks as a tactic to divide and break the anti-Vietnamese resistance.

"I am neither naive nor stupid to the point of not being able to 'guess' what the 'fox' Hun Sen and his bosses have in mind," Prince Sihanouk said in the message, released to the press by his office here.

He said he knew Vietnam wanted to win recognition for its client government, fought by the prince's anti-Vietnamese resistance coalition recognized by the United Nations as the legitimate Cambodian regime.

The prince said he would not sign any joint communique with Mr. Hun Sen "without concrete progress" towards a breakthrough on Cambodia.

The prince and Mr. Hun Sen met in December in France for the first talks between warring Cambodian factions since Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to topple the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

Prince Sihanouk broke off and then decided to go ahead with the talks after allies expressed concern that he had not mentioned Vietnam in an agreement he signed with Mr. Hun Sen on December 4 towards national reconciliation.

The resistance's main backers China and non-communist Southeast Asia insist that Vietnam, as the aggressor and occupying power, attend any peace talks or at least pledge a withdrawal from Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Son Sann Appeals for 3-Day Prayers for Peace

*BK030655 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer
in Cambodia 0500 GMT 3 Jan 88*

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, prime minister of the Cambodian Coalition Government and KPNLF president, appealed to Cambodians not to lose hope and to unite in thwarting Vietnam's maneuvers to legitimize illegal acts and to allow over a million Vietnamese nationals to live permanently in Cambodia.

His Excellency Son Sann said every Cambodian is aware of various Vietnamese pretexts to transform the war of aggression in Cambodia into one between Cambodians. His Excellency Son Sann said genuine peace, which would restore Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity without sacrificing the future of Cambodian children is within reach if all Cambodians

coordinate their activities to force Vietnam to pull out its forces from Cambodia and not let Vietnam carry out maneuvers to delay the recovery of this genuine peace.

His Excellency said this in an appeal to all Cambodians, at home and abroad, to pray for three days, 6, 7, and 8 January 1988, for peace and freedom to be restored in Cambodia.

Indonesia

President Suharto Delivers 'Year-End' Speech *BK311540 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian* 1217 GMT 31 Dec 87

[President Suharto's 1987 year-end speech—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Peace be with you, fellow countrymen! Tonight, on New Year's Eve, I would like to ask for a little of your time to review and comment on the significance of 1987. My reason for doing this is that with a clear mind we can take the best possible lesson from all events and experiences which we have gone through together this past year, and with a wise attitude we can use this lesson as an asset for our national journey in 1988, particularly in continuing national development. We are continuously facing various challenges and obstacles. Such experiences are not unique to our nation. All developing nations, virtually without exception, have gone through stages full of similar difficult tests and challenges.

Fellow countrymen, for the past few years, I have (?endlessly) reminded all of us that we are facing a difficult and arduous period in the economic field. But in addition, I have reminded us that our development is not only an economic development but also a development which covers [words indistinct] of the life of our nation. Accordingly, we must develop progress in [words indistinct] fields as much as possible to overcome any economic difficulties. We have safely seen this year through despite this difficult period. In the economic field, we made encouraging progress despite difficulties. As a whole, there are strong signs that our economic situation in 1987 was better than in 1986. We have revived our economy which suffered from depression in 1986 by making adjustments [passage indistinct]. This is clearly reflected in an increase in nonoil and nongas exports in 1987. What is no less important is the increasing ability of our nation to manage our national economy, develop industries, master management and technology, enter world markets, and so. This is a very important development and serves as a new strength for us to become a nation with a higher level of progress amid the progress of other nations in the world. It is also a strength necessary for us as a preparation for the takeoff stage which we will enter during the Sixth 5-year Development Plan.

In the meantime, we managed to maintain the development of the agricultural sector in a broad sense. Some of our agricultural and fishery products have entered world markets. However, we realize that great general tasks are lying ahead in developing agriculture. We managed to maintain self-sufficiency in rice even though we had to be vigilant for a possible long drought this year. Despite our very limited development funds, particularly development financed by the state budget, we managed to build various projects in 1987 with very strong efforts and by continuing to enhance efficiency. In line with the initiatives and ability of the people, as I have earlier mentioned, domestic and foreign investments have shown encouraging signs. This will serve as a strength to motivate the growth of our economy. In an effort to maintain economic resilience and development, the government pays great attention to economic stability. These efforts are not disappointing given the difficult circumstances. Throughout 1987, the inflation rate was below 9%, exactly 8.9%. The brief account of our economic situation in 1987 shows that we continue to demonstrate economic resilience, particularly in facing the negative effects of various developments in the world economy.

Economic resilience is inseparable from our resilience in other fields, which we can continue to develop. In the ideological field, our national consensus to confirm Pancasila as the sole ideology in social, national, and state life has opened a new era. Our national life in the country is becoming more invigorated under a unified spirit. A sense of brotherhood, mutual trust, and mutual respect among all strata and groups in our society is developing within our nation. All strata and groups in our society have begun to prepare various concrete initiatives and programs to compete in giving the greatest and best possible substance for development. Mutual suspicion and mutual distrust are decreasing. (?All this) is a historical lesson for which we are thankful because we can learn from it in a wise manner.

This year, we held a general election which was the climax to our democratic life with Pancasila as the sole ideology. [Words indistinct] and all participants in the general elections took part in this festival of democracy which we hold every 5 years. The recent general election proceeded in a better, more orderly, smoother manner than previous general elections. All this is a valuable contribution for future general elections, which we hope will further consolidate the development and growth of the Pancasila Democracy from time to time. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen, the year 1988, which are about to enter, and subsequent years will continue to be difficult and [word indistinct] ones. The long world economic recession has not yet shown the signs of recovery necessary to revive the world economy. Being part of the world community, our economy will be affected by the

world economy, which has yet to recover. We consistently fight because efforts to improve the world economic situation must be a common, earnest, and global responsibility. The national interest of the countries in the world, both the industrialized and developing countries, must be taken into account and respected in these great efforts. Without will in such efforts, the world will continue to undergo endless economic crisis. Aware of the world situation, the recent ASEAN summit in Manila renewed ASEAN's determination to enhance cooperation among its own countries, particularly in the economic field. We hope that cooperation among the ASEAN member countries in the economic field in the coming years will bring about positive results not only for the progress and well-being of each member country but also for the common progress and well-being of our region.

Our development in particular and ASEAN member countries' development in general need a more peaceful world so that all funds and attention will be concentrated on development. There seem to be renewed hopes for peace in our region with new approaches to resolve the Cambodian issue. We hope that all these new approaches will continue to develop in a positive direction.

While heightened tension still exists in various parts of the world, particularly the Middle East, the human race is (?relieved) at the results of the meeting of the leaders of the two superpowers—President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. All of us congratulate them on the results of their meeting, which we hope is the beginning of a more lasting relaxation of tension.

Fellow countrymen! The year 1987 will end a few hours from now. The general impression of the outgoing year is that an economic depression is still looming over us. However, we also see bright lights through the dark cloud. It is these bright lights which will give us hope and (?confidence) as we enter the year 1988 with high spirits and uplifted heads. Probably, our journey will continue to be arduous. We are prepared to continue the arduous journey because we have indeed prepared ourselves to the best of our ability. Let us enter the year 1988 with the deepest thanks to God Almighty who gave us grace and safety in 1987, providence, hard work, efficiency, national discipline, social solidarity, good work in our respective duties, and great responsibility! By calling on all of us to renew this determination, I would like to use this opportunity to wish all Indonesian families, youths, and children a happy new year 1988 and particularly to those of you who are of the Christian faith a merry Christmas and I hope that the Christmas message will give a new spirit to your life and dedication to our nation and state which we are developing! May God the Most Powerful, Merciful, and Compassionate continue to give and pour well being and progress on our nation because we are indeed determined to work hard to build our happy future!

Thank you and peace be with you!

Suharto Gives Directives at Cabinet Session

*BK311239 Jakarta ANTARA in English
1212 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Jakarta, December 31 (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto has stressed that the 1988/1989 fiscal year which is the last year of Pelita IV (fourth five-year development plan, 1984-1989) will be a difficult and arduous one.

"Let us therefore face the heavy and difficult tasks ahead with full confidence but cautiously and punctually," the head of state said at a year-end plenary cabinet session at the State Secretariat building here Wednesday.

The president said, "Through consolidated and united attitude and action, we believe that we will accomplish these tasks as best as possible."

At the 3.5-hour session, the president in his directives instructed the construction of government buildings, which had not yet been started, be postponed.

In the field of supervision, he specifically requested the attention of the ministers, the leadership of non-governmental institutions, to enhance supervision in their respective environments.

Functional supervision, as carried out by inspectors general and their apparatuses, he said, should be enhanced. Superiors should also carry out direct supervision on their subordinates, the president said, as quoted by Information Minister Harmoko to the press after the plenary cabinet session.

On problems pertaining to this supervision, President Suharto also stressed that supervision should also be intensified in the field of development projects and in fields directly connected with public services, such as issuance of business permits, defence, building, as well as tender.

In another part of his directives, the president said that the presidential instruction fund should really reach the region without any subtractions, and should be utilized in accordance with the policy and objectives already stipulated.

Meanwhile, soft foreign loans should be given priority and credits should be utilized selectively and carefully, he said.

This is important, because foreign loans if not utilized selectively and carefully, would become a future heavy burden for Indonesia's foreign balance of payment, the president said.

On the enhancement of the private sector of the economy, the president stressed the importance of continuously encouraging the economic growth through efforts which stimulate economic as well as development activities by the private sector.

In this context, efforts should be continued to simplify permit procedures, to eliminate levies which give an extra burden to the business ventures, as well as quicken the supply of credits to business fields which encourage non oil/gas exports and create new job opportunities.

On the state earnings, the head of state said an utmost effort should be made to reach the set-target, or even to surpass it.

Therefore, all departments are requested to help promote the collection of taxes, he said.

On the development expenditures, the president gave directives that the development funds should be used for sharp-priority activities.

In this regard, he stressed the importance of paying special attention to the maintainance and operation costs at projects already constructed, particularly roads, bridges, dams, irrigation, railroads, seaports, airports, telecommunications and electricity.

"The maintenance is very important; if we pay no attention, the means will be damaged and useless," said the president.

"If this happens, our economic activities will face an obstacle and great troubles," he added.

The president also underlined that efforts to promote non-oil exports and tourism should be intensified to increase the state revenues in the 1988/1989 state budget.

In this connection, the head of state stressed the importance of promoting non-oil exports to East Europe and enhancing the trade with China.

Murdani on East Timor, Military Situations

*BK301345 Jakarta ANTARA in English
1214 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 30 (ANTARA-OANA)—Armed Forces commander General L. B. Murdani estimated that the strength of security disturbers now wandering in the forests and mountains of East Timor is only about 500 persons.

Some of them are armed and some unarmed. Most of their arms are old weapons. Only about 10 or 11 percent of these are weapons seized or stolen from our soldiers, Gen. Murdani told journalists Wednesday after a year-end plenary cabinet session.

He said these security disturbers are not well organized and their conditions are pitiful. They could only engage in harassing the village people, burning homes and stealing foods.

If they come to us with good intentions we will receive them well, but if they come with guns we will shoot them dead, the general said.

They live in groups of from four to 20 persons. Several more years would be needed to suppress them totally, he said.

Maybe, he added, they do have radios but the Armed Forces believes that they no longer have communication with the outside world since this last year.

Asked how the government will act against them, Gen. Murdani explained the security disturbers had existed only as the results of a conflict or a misunderstanding that cannot be resolved with guns alone.

The Indonesian Government, he said, has launched many efforts to end the conflicts, such as accelerating development in East Timor and providing the local people with information on the integration of the region into the Republic of Indonesia.

We make them aware that we are not colonizers. We come not to kill, there is no intention to turn them into Moslems. They are free to worship in accordance with their religious beliefs, said Gen. Murdani.

He said such efforts had been succesful as seen from the decreasing number of security disturbers in forests which ten years ago reached 10,000. Now there are only around 500 people left, he explained.

The general also hoped the Timorese students who are now studying in Java or other places, would give such information to the local Timorese when they returned home.

Asked about the possibility of negotiating with the Portuguese Government with regards to those rejecting the integration, Gen. Murdani asked back, "Is Portugal willing to receive them?"

He said the Indonesian Government did not do such thing because it would put a burden to another country.

Is Portugal willing to accommodate and support them?, Asked the general.

Questioned on the possibility of the Indonesian participation in the military exercises at the U.S. military base in the Philippines, General Murdani said there was no need for Indonesia to join the military games due to financial constraints.

We don't have any money. It is expensive to send personnel or ships there, he explained.

A U.S. officer of the U.S. Air Base at Clark, north of Manila, told visiting ASEAN journalists mid this month that the door was not closed for Indonesia, if it desired, to join the military exercises at the base together with three other ASEAN member countries, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

General Murdani saw such an offer as a normal thing between two friendly countries.

The four-star Army general said that exercises at home were enough for the Indonesian Armed Forces whose operation is mostly in the Indonesian territory.

He also said that Indonesia was not facing any external threats. Therefore, Indonesia needn't think too much about a big war like the Iran-Iraq war, he explained.

Asked on the impacts of foreign tourist influxes on the domestic security, the Armed Forces commander said that he did not see any negative impacts.

Laos

Thai Border Problems, Accusations Continue

Chemical Weapon Use Claimed

BK311008 Vientiane KPL in English
0912 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Vientiane, December 31 (KPL)—In its commentary, the leading daily PASASON denounces the Thai allegation declaring that the border armed conflict has resulted from Lao troops' violation of Thai territory, and inspired by Vietnam with the aim of hindering the improvement of Lao-Thai relations.

"The Thai allegation is a naive attempt of explaining away the border situation through which Thailand has hoped to divert the public opinion from the real truth," PASASON underlines, adding to this effect that the escalation of armed conflict has been motivated by financial interests involving timber smuggling operations committed by Thai businessmen supported by the Thai 3d Army Region command.

"Instead of positively responding to the Lao calls for a peaceful settlement of the problem, Thailand answered with air-raid and artillery bombing, including bombing of chemical shells and what's more Thai troops have been reinforced in the conflict area," PASASON points out. [sentence as received] It stresses further that such acts of hostility leave the Lao side no alternative but to repost in order to safeguard the homeland.

"It is now clear that the settlement of the conflict between Laos and Thailand can only be reached if Thailand responds positively to the Lao proposal. The maintenance of hostile attitude towards Laos by the Thai circles will merely worsen the bilateral relations," PASASON concludes.

Rally Denounces Thai Attacks

BK021202 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] This morning [31 December], a rally was held in Sisattanak District, Vientiane municipality, to denounce the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries for sending troops to intrude into and aggress against Lao territory in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. Over 200 people in the district attended the rally to denounce the crime committed by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops against Laos.

Commentary on Delegation Head

BK311314 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Commentary: "The Selection of Heads of Delegations for Lao-Thai Talks Is the Sovereign Right of Each Country"]

[Text] The second condition contained in the proposal for talks on Lao-Thai relations put forth by the Thai Foreign Ministry says that the past two rounds of talks produced no positive results because the head of the Lao delegation failed to comply with the guideline earlier agreed upon by both sides. They even accused the Lao delegation head of verbally attacking and insulting the Thai Government. Therefore, the Thai side requested that the Lao side consider appointing an appropriate person to lead its delegation to the next meeting.

Let us consider if such a condition set by the Thai side is correct or not. In fact, the head of the Lao delegation in the two previous rounds of talks has carried out his duty excellently. Regarding the news conference, the Lao side maintained that it had to inform the people of the issues they must know about, based on the facts and desire for improvement of relations between the two countries. The Lao side does not regard the action as an attack or insult to anyone. To inform the general public of the issues of interest to them is an international practice. If the Thai side is not afraid of the truth, why must it view the event as an insult? The appointment of the head and members of a delegation is the sovereign right of an independent country. No country has the right to appoint a delegation for another country. It should also be noted that the Thai Foreign Ministry recently accused the Lao ambassador to Thailand of being impolite, lacking diplomatic etiquette, and causing a nuisance. But the Lao ambassador chatted with leading Thai personalities because they were acquainted. He did not say any word insulting the Thai Foreign Ministry. To look for trouble or make false accusations against any particular

person is not the way to contribute to the effort to resolve the problems in Lao-Thai relations. It is recommended that the Thai side should always remember its frequent utterance that Thailand and Laos are brother countries sharing the same race and similar customs and traditions. If this is true, we should be able to talk to each other on any matter regardless of who we are. No individual should be barred from the practice since it will hinder the settlement of problems in Lao-Thai relations which the Lao and Thai people have longed for.

Thais Urged To Withdraw

*BK010530 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 28 Dec 87 GMT*

[Commentary: "Who Is Insincere in Holding Talks?"]

[Text] Dear listeners: After the "Phou Soi Dao Operation" of the Thai 3d Army Region had been thwarted by the regional forces and people of Boten District who, gallantly exercising their right to self-defense, put out of action a large number of enemy elements, and after the Thai public opinion had voiced doubt about the overt acts committed by the warlords in the Thai 3d Army Region, senior Thai authorities tried to make a cover-up excuse by saying that the Thai side does not intend either to create any problems with the Lao side or to encroach on Lao sovereignty or annex Lao territory. They also claimed that they do not want to escalate the conflict between Thailand and Laos, which can be settled through negotiation in a brotherly manner, to the point of causing undesirable tension and that the Thai Armed Forces are merely doing their duty to protect the Thai people along the border from external threats.

All this is a lame and totally unreliable excuse. The people along both sides of the border in particular fully understand that this cunning and deceptive trick has been employed frequently by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary warlords to the extent that no one falls for it any longer. If the Thai side had no intention of creating this incident, why did it deploy troops to attack Lao positions located some 10 km inside Lao territory?

Several Thai newspapers have reported that the Thai 3d Army Region launched the "Phou Soi Dao Operation" on 3, 4, and 5 November to flush out Lao regional forces from their positions at Hill 1428 in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. The Thai newspapers also said that the Thai ultrarightist reactionary warlords deployed several battalions of rangers from the Pak Thongchai Rangers Camp and troops of the Cavalry Division from the 3d Army Region together with 105-mm and 155-mm artillery units to systematically carry out the so-called "Phou Soi Dao-1 Operation" that was subsequently resisted resolutely and punished duly by the regional forces. Shortly afterward, they launched the so-called "Phou Soi Dao-2 Operation" on 15 December. In this operation, they deployed troops from the Special Forces Camp in Pawai of Lopburi Province, rangers from the Pak Thongchai Rangers Camp in Korat, and the

Cavalry Division of the 3d Army Region supported by artillery and jets to launch relentless attacks against the Lao positions at Hill 1428 and the other hills in the vicinity. Nevertheless, the Boten District regional forces have thus far inflicted painful defeats on them. They have suffered heavy losses both in manpower and weapons.

It can be seen that the Thai side always makes careful preparations to ignite such border clashes between the two sides. They are not coincidental at all. Thus, who would believe their deceitful claims which are made in a manner matching an old Lao saying: uttering sweet words with a sour flavor?

Nevertheless, the Thai side seems to want to negotiate with Laos to settle the problems between the two sides. The LPDR has repeatedly made its unchanging stand known—that it wishes to peacefully coexist with the Kingdom of Thailand as a good neighboring and brotherly country. After each border incident, the Lao side always proposes to the Thai side to hold negotiations to settle the problems peacefully. If the Thai side genuinely wants to settle these problems through peaceful means, it can do so easily for the Lao side always has an open door. Because the Thai side has created the present tension, it is their duty to get rid of this problem. The Thai side need only withdraw its troops from the Lao territory in the area and the situation will return to normal. In the past, no Thai troops were ever stationed in this area. Without the presence of Thai troops in the area, no armed clashes will occur and the Thai people will not have to lose their lives and property unnecessarily.

Views on Proposal Conditions

*BK011526 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Unattributed commentary: "Since Problems To Be Discussed Involve Only Two Countries In Particular, It Is Not Appropriate To Hold Talks In Third Country"]

[Text] It is noted in point four in the third crucial matter in the proposal on the settlement of the problems in Thai-Lao relations as raised by the Thai Foreign Affairs Ministry that with regard to the site of talks, it is not necessary to be in Thailand or in Laos, but it can be in a third country in order to avoid the use of place to serve a wrong purpose.

Let us raise a question: Why does the Thai side want to avoid having the site of the talks on Lao and Thai territory? The answer to this question is none other than that the Thai side wants to avoid reporting news to the public to prevent the Thai people from knowing about the Thai side's acts against Laos, acts which are not in conformity with the Lao-Thai joint statements of 1979. Worse still, the Thai side wants a third country to mediate in this matter with a view to making the settlement of problems in Lao-Thai relations spread into

neighboring countries. Regarding this, in the recent past, the Thai side has tried to distort facts and repeatedly made the slander that Vietnam has directed Laos.

To have the problems in Lao-Thai relations settled harmoniously and action taken without delay, it is most appropriate to select the LPDR or the Kingdom of Thailand as the site for the talks because the problems to be raised at the talks involve only the two countries of Laos and Thailand which are neighboring and fraternal countries. The initial sentence of the Thai Foreign Affairs Ministry's 25 December proposal, which agrees to hold talks to settle the problems in Lao-Thai relations, is considered to be the best. But, the bad point is that when coming to the actual matter on means to settle the problems, the Thai side has even set conditions with an intention of unreasonably creating problems aimed at delaying the time for the beginning of the talks. Meanwhile, the Thai side has continued to mobilize troops from the 3d Army Region to step up nibbling attacks on Lao territory west of Boten District, Sayaboury Province, even more seriously. To maintain neighborliness and fraternity in accordance with the Lao-Thai joint statements of 1979, the Thai side is requested to immediately abandon its proposal with those conditions, consider the aide-memoire issued on 28 December 1987 by the LPDR Foreign Affairs Ministry in reply to the proposal of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Kingdom of Thailand, immediately put an end to its encroachments upon Lao territory, and then turn to holding talks to harmoniously settle the various problems which are arising and which have arisen, but remained unsettled.

Report on 29-30 Dec Shelling

*BK020414 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 1 Jan 88*

[Text] According to a news report from Boten District, on the night of 29 December, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops from the 3d Army Region launched another attack on Hill 1370 located west of Boten District, Sayaboury Province. However, they were resolutely counterattacked by the regional armed forces of Boten District exercising their rights to self-defense. As a result, the Thai troops were forced to retreat.

Later, at 0300 on 30 December, they again fired 105-mm and 155-mm artillery shells at Hills 1428 and 1370. The shelling continued until 0500 hours. At 2300 on the same day, ultrarightist reactionary troops from the 3d Army Region also launched an attack on Hill 1370. However, they were heroically repulsed by the regional armed forces of Boten District, as a result of which a number of them were killed and the remnants fled away.

It has been 5 to 6 days since the Thai side agreed to hold talks to settle the problems in the Lao-Thai relations, but the ultrarightist reactionary troops from the 3d Army Region have continued to create tension in this Lao-Thai border area. This has shown that the ultrarightist reactionaries in the circles of the Thai 3d Army Region have

ignored the peaceful settlement of the problems in accordance with the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao joint statements of 1979 and the aspirations of the two peoples of Laos and Thailand.

Report on 31 Dec Actions

*BK0200340 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 1 Jan 88*

[Text] According to a local news report, yesterday morning, 31 December, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops continued to fire more than 10 rounds of 105-mm and 155-mm artillery shells at Hill 1370 and other hills west of Boten District, Sayaboury Province.

It is observed that the number of artillery shells fired at the said area by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops has decreased as compared to that in previous days. However, the Thai side has continued to strengthen its forces. On the morning of 31 December alone, as many as three sorties of Thai Army helicopters, transporting weapons and ammunition, landed in the said area.

Report on 1 Jan Shelling

*BK020420 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 2 Jan 88*

[Text] According to a local news report, yesterday morning, 1 January 1988, Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops at three separate times fired a total of more than 80 rounds of 105-mm and 155-mm artillery shells at Hills 1428 and 1370 and the Nam Heuang area in Lao territory in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. The shelling took place in three episodes; the first took place at 0300 on New Year's Day while the second one began at 0500 and the third at 0900.

Along with the said shelling attacks, they have also restricted the exchange of visits between the people in the said areas, thus opposing customary practices in earning a living and running counter to the aspirations of the Lao and Thai peoples residing along both sides of the Nam Heuang River, who normally visit with each other, in particular on the occasion of the celebration of the international new year. Their acts have caused great dissatisfaction to the Thai people. They have also created an unfavorable atmosphere for the people in the area to peaceably earn their living.

Report on 2 Jan 'Aggression'

*BK030240 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] According to a local news report from Boten District, beginning 0500 on 2 January, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops continued to fire 105-mm and 155-mm artillery at areas in Lao territory west of Boten District, Sayaboury Province. A total of 18 rounds fell on Hills 1428 and 1370 and nearby areas. This further

shelling of Lao territory continues the acts of aggression that the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have been conducting against Laos since early December.

Editorial Greet Hmong on New Year Festival

*BK020600 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[14 December PASASON editorial: "Wishing for Joyous Celebration of Traditional Kin Chiang New Year Festival"]

[Text] As in previous years, after the harvesting season, the fraternal Lao people of various tribes normally organize various traditional festivals. As for the fraternal Lao Hmong tribal people, they call it the Kin Chiang Festival.

The traditional Kin Chiang new year festival of the Hmong this year comes at a time when our entire party, army, and people are joyously and actively engaging in labor to carry out emulation campaigns in an enthusiastic atmosphere throughout the country, translating into reality the resolution of the Fourth LPRP Congress, the second 5-year state plan, and the resolutions of the Second National Congress of the Lao Front for National Construction. It is also the time when our entire party, army, and people have just celebrated the 12th anniversary of the 2 December national day and the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The fraternal Lao Hmong have also actively contributed to those emulation campaigns carried out to welcome these occasions. Like the Lao people of other tribes, the Hmong have maintained the tradition of heroic and undaunted struggle, the tradition of solidarity and mutual love and assistance, and the tradition of industriousness, perseverance, and initiatives since ancient times.

Like in previous years, in the traditional Kin Chiang new year festival this year, all fraternal Lao Hmong of all ages and both sexes wear new clothes and decorate themselves with beautiful ornaments and join in playing various competitive games for amusement in a joyous atmosphere in conformity with their fine traditions and with the line and policies of our party and state.

To create conditions for the Lao Hmong to organize the celebration in a profoundly significant manner and in a joyous atmosphere throughout the Kin Chiang festival as well as to enjoy life throughout the coming new year, the leading committees at all levels and administrations of all branches must take the initiative to closely guide them in carrying out the celebration activities and must take this opportunity to publicize the correct and just front policies of our party on guaranteeing the equal rights of all tribes and encouraging all tribes to unite as one to fully promote and expand initiatives so as to together build and develop the prosperous country. At the same time, the leading committees and the administrations are requested to encourage soldiers, cadres, and people to always maintain vigilance, to be prepared to

fight and to fight resolutely, and to effectively implement the two strategic tasks of defending the country and maintaining public security and building socialism.

It is true that the Kin Chiang festival is the traditional festival of the Lao Hmong in particular, but it is also regarded as the common festival of fraternal people of other tribes throughout the country. It is considered to be a festival which strengthens the solidarity among various tribes, the solidarity which has become a factor determining the existence and development of our nation. For this reason, let our Lao people of all tribes unite as one and together march forward with ever firmer steps to successfully fulfill the sacred cause as entrusted by the party and state as well as to fulfill the plan for 1987 and then positively continue to compete in fulfilling, step by step, the objectives in the second 5-year state plan from now until the year 1990.

Guide to Celebration of LPA Anniversary

*BK011102 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 23 Dec 87*

[21 December "Instruction" No 415 issued by Army General Political Department on celebration of 39th anniversary of LPA]

[Text] The celebration of the LPA anniversary this year comes at the time when the entire party, Army, and people are jubilantly bringing into full play the resolution of the fourth party congress for the second year in a spirit of confidence and on the basis of a new life-style and new determination, and at a time when a new trend is emerging in the world situation, one in favor of the revolution. It is also a time in which the enemies of the revolution in our country are positively striving to pursue their two-faced schemes with the hope of subverting, sabotaging, and swallowing up our country. For this reason, the celebration of the anniversary of our army this year is considered to be especially significant. It is considered a good opportunity for our cadres and combatants to recall the glorious traditions of the Army and of units as well as to review past work, consolidate their units in all respects, and step up the emulation campaigns to score achievements in an even more enthusiastic manner.

To have the celebration of the anniversary of our Army this year organized properly in accordance with this direction, the Army General Political Department issues the following instruction:

1. Purposes and expectations:

The purposes and expectations are to recall the traditions in the growth, development, and majestic struggle of our Army over the past 39 years, in particular its contribution to the implementation of the two strategic tasks—the national defense and socialist construction—over the past 12 years; profoundly understand the line and policies of the party and new tasks of the army;

clearly realize the situation and various schemes and acts of general sabotage of all enemies; and maintain high vigilance and be determined to crush and defeat all schemes of the enemies in a timely manner. All must use the occasion of the celebration of this Army anniversary to consolidate their units in all fields, in particular in the ideological field, in conformity with the new tasks and new situation; promote and expand the traditions of the Army and of units; step up emulation campaigns to successfully score achievements to welcome the 40th anniversary of the Army.

2. Contents and forms:

A. Contents: Organize to study the Army traditions in coordination with the review of achievements of various units in the past year; examine the good and weak points of units and of individuals and then together correct whatever is seen to be inappropriate to the true nature and traditions of the Army; forge a new determination and march forward to successfully fulfill the political tasks of the units; organize to invite heroes and senior cadres to deliver lectures for all those in army units and for the local people so as to enable everyone to come to profoundly understand the glorious traditions, significant roles and responsibilities of the Army, and duties and obligations of all Lao citizens. For those units which have favorable conditions, they are requested to organize viewings of the army museum and traditional halls of various units. Arrangements must be made to review points of criticism given by the people in order to improve daily the relations between the army and the people in places where troops are stationed. Arrangements must be also made to repair the graveyards and tombs of cadres and combatants who have sacrificed their lives for the nation since they are regarded as sacred places for our army and people. In addition, arrangements must be made to lay wreaths to commemorate the meritorious deeds of unknown combatants. All must heighten their self-sufficient spirit and the spirit of building their own strength; strive to boost production, practice thrift, and improve living conditions; join in engaging in labor to build a socialist country; and turn to the grass roots to translate into reality the directions of setting up socialist fortifications. Arrangements must be made to perform literary, sports, and acrobatic activities so as to bring pleasure to all units. Attention must be made to improving living conditions daily and to launching emulation campaigns in an enthusiastic manner to score achievements to welcome the party anniversary and the 40th anniversary of the Army.

B. Forms: In celebrating the Army anniversary this year, emphasis must be put on the contents. As for the forms, they must be as ordinary as those past ones organized by each organization and each unit. In each rally, the history of the Army must be read and speeches by unit chiefs must be given reviewing past achievements, praising and hailing outstanding individuals, and discussing tasks to be fulfilled in the immediate future. Decorations must be done beautifully so as to draw appreciation,

respect, and trust from the cadres, combatants, and people. In places where the local administrations join in organizing the rallies, it is suggested that administrative chiefs also be invited to deliver speeches.

During the time of celebration, attention must be paid to preventing acts that might cause problems. Luxurious banquets or get-togethers for pleasure are prohibited. The holiday to mark this occasion is allowed to be observed on 20 January, 1 day only. As for the study, it can be organized either before or after the holiday, depending on the practical conditions of each unit.

3. Slogans: Long live the 20 January spirit! Be determined to translate into reality the resolution of the fourth party congress! Heighten the revolutionary vigilance and resolutely smash and defeat all schemes of general sabotage of the enemies! Strive to build more all-round strong units and leading party units! Strengthen the internal solidarity, the solidarity between the army and the people, the tribal solidarity, and the international solidarity! Long live the LPRP—organizer and leader of all victories of the Lao revolution! Long live the LPDR!

Upon receiving this instruction, the command staffs at all levels are requested to study and correctly implement it. If there is any problem, they are requested to report it, ask for suggestions, and report achievements in implementing this instruction to the higher echelons.

Philippines

Improved Conditions in Bases Review Sought
*HK041517 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT
4 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 4 (AFP)—The Philippines will seek to "upgrade conditions" attached to an agreement giving U.S. access to major military bases in the country when the pact comes under review this year, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Monday.

He told reporters the Manila panel will also map out alternative options if the United States decides to leave Clark Air Base and Subic naval base.

Mr. Manglapus met with President Corazon Aquino and leaders of congress Monday to draw up Manila's agenda for a bilateral review this year.

He said the talks "will be an occasion to upgrade conditions in the agreement that have to do with such things as internal conduct of the bases and the provisions regarding what will happen to the installations and these improvements in the bases once the United States leaves them."

Washington has pledged to grant 900 million dollars in economic and military aid to Manila in exchange for continued access to these facilities. The Philippine Congress wants a larger amount to be designated as fixed rent if Manila decides to extend the agreement.

Mrs. Aquino had pledged to respect the bases agreement and to keep her options open after the agreement expires in 1989.

But in an interview published in the Japanese business daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN last week, she hinted she may allow continued U.S. access to the bases to protect regional security and allow her to focus on economic problems.

The United States says the bases keep open vital sea routes and provide a counterbalance to Soviet military presence in the region. It has refused to label the economic and military aid to Manila as rent, saying both countries benefitted from the agreement.

Last year it started construction of a runway extension at Clark, and said the assassination of two U.S. servicemen and a U.S. national outside the base would change [as received] U.S. policy on these bases.

The killings were claimed by communist guerrillas who accuse Washington of aiding the Aquino government in the guerrilla war.

Mr. Manglapus said Monday the question of whether Manila will decide to allow continued U.S. access after 1991 "is not necessarily going to be taken up in the forthcoming review," which deals only with the current agreement.

A renegotiation of the current agreement comes in 1989, when the approval of a two-thirds majority in the Philippine Senate would be required by the new constitution for a new bases treaty to become valid.

Aquino Hints Bases May Remain
*HK020204 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 1 Jan 87*

[Text] President Aquino hinted in an interview published in Tokyo Wednesday she may allow U.S. military bases in the Philippines to stay in order to protect regional security and allow them to focus on economic problems. Mrs. Aquino, without directly mentioning the bases, said the Philippines is the only country, or in hosting the bases will in effect provide for the security of the region. [sentence as heard] She said it is necessary to have a balance between the two superpowers, something the ASEAN officials expressed concern about during the recently concluded ASEAN summit in Manila over the uncertain future of the Clark and Subic bases and the growing [word indistinct] in the region.

Soviets Said To Increase Reconnaissance Flights
*HK020507 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 2 Jan 87*

[Text] Senior military commanders have expressed fears of an alleged increase in Soviet reconnaissance flights in Philippine airspace. They say that these flights are carried out almost everyday in the northern provinces especially above the huge U.S. military bases in Pampanga and Zambales. These planes come from Soviet bases in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, which is 1,400 km from the Philippines. According to report, these planes are trying to gather intelligence information about the two bases.

USSR Seeks Support Against U.S. Weapons
*HK311255 Quezon City MALAYA in English
30 Dec 87 p 6*

[Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] The Soviet Union yesterday asked the Philippine government to support its protest against the renewed production of binary chemical weapons on the United States reportedly starting last Dec. 16.

The Soviet request was relayed by Ambassador Oleg M. Sokolov to Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose D. Ingles in the absence of Secretary Raul M. Manglapus who is on vacation in Baguio City.

Sokolov said the production by the U.S. of a new generation of chemical weapons impedes the efforts of the international community to conclude an agreement for a total prohibition of chemical weapons currently being discussed in Geneva.

Sokolov said the U.S. binary weapon is a new type of chemical armament that "poisons the environment and people."

A statement from the Soviet foreign ministry describes binary weapons as "chemical weapons in which the warfare poisoning substance VX or Sarin is formed of the relatively low-toxic components during the munition flight to the target."

Ingles said the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] will study the Soviet request and any action to be taken by the Philippine government will be done through the United Nations which will reconvene in September next year.

The U.S. Embassy, on the other hand, released a statement by U.S. state department spokesman Charles Redman saying that the U.S. production of binary chemical weapons is to secure a "safer, more credible chemical weapon."

TV Reports Aquino's 1988 New Year's Message

BK311302 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1030 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] President Aquino this evening expressed her best wishes and those of her family and also as head of government to the Filipino people that they may be given more blessings in the coming year in their personal and professional lives. Here is part of the president's new year message.

[Begin Aquino recording] Now is the time for our people to enter their promised land. Let us not lose track of the reasons of our great successes. Let us not allow ourselves to be distracted from attaining a better quality of life for our people, and peace and security for their children and future generations. United in the ways of peace toward the attainment of peace, one promised land for one united nation. We have too much behind us now to allow ourselves to be dismembered and too much ahead of us now to allow ourselves to be defied. With a renewed faith in ourselves, with hopes in our hearts, with unwavering courage to face our hurdles, let us hand in hand make this new year the year of the fulfilment of the cherished dreams of all our heroes. [passage in Tagalog] [end recording]

Marcos Supporters Reportedly Planning Attack

HK010548 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT
1 Jan 88

[Text] Manila Jan 1 (AFP)—Supporters of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, backed by troops, plan to attack military camps here within the next few days, newspapers said here Friday, citing military commanders.

Intelligence reports showed Marcos supporters and officers sympathetic to their cause were planning to attack Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, air force headquarters in Villamor Air Base and Basa Air Base, a fighter station north of here, the newspapers said.

The attack would be supported by two light tanks and 1,000 troops led by Francisco Baula who took part in a coup bid on August 28 which left at least 53 people dead, the MANILA STANDARD newspaper quoted Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre as saying.

Lieutenant Colonel Baula has been on the run since the failed coup.

After capturing the Manila bases, they would move on to military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo which houses the defence department and was the site of a crucial battle between rebel troops and the Philippines army in the August putsch, the reports added.

The reports could not immediately be confirmed by military authorities here.

Military Confirms Reports

HK010524 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0500 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The military confirmed the existence of a plot to overthrow the Aquino government after receiving reports that remnants of 28 August coup participants were planning to conduct raids in the next 24 hours.

Sources from the Central Luzon Regional Unified Command [RUC] said yesterday that the rebels' foremost targets were the Basa Air Base, Villamor Air Base and Fort Bonifacio. The rebels were allegedly led by former Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Baula, who was also involved in the takeover of Camp Olivas on 28 August.

The RUC released the results of its intelligence monitoring activities after Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief General Fidel Ramos had warned that the remaining rebel soldiers at large still were capable of launching commando-type operations.

Witness Testifies Soldier Shot Benigno Aquino

HK030339 Hong Kong AFP in English 0336 GMT
4 Jan 87

[Text] Manila, Jan 4 (AFP)—A prosecution witness testified in court here Monday that he saw a soldier shoot Benigno Aquino, the husband of President Corazon Aquino, at Manila International Airport in 1983.

Jesse Barcelona, a ground maintenance employee of Philippine Airlines, told a court trying 40 people for the assassination that he was on the airport tarmac when he saw a soldier shoot Mr. Aquino on an airline stairway.

"I saw the soldier behind the man in white point a gun at his nape," he said in Filipino.

"I saw the soldier draw his gun, aim it at the nape of the man in white, the gun went off, and the man in white fell forward," he added.

Mr. Aquino was wearing a white suit when he was shot dead under heavy military guard as he returned from three years of self-imposed exile in the United States on August 21, 1983 at the airport which now bears his name.

The former senator's murder sparked a political crisis which eventually toppled his arch-enemy Ferdinand Marcos after 20 years in power and installed his widow Corazon Aquino as president following a revolt in February 1986.

Mr. Barcelona, who said he was driving a tow truck 15 meters (yards) from the scene of the shooting, was the first eyewitness to testify at the current trial that a soldier shot Mr. Aquino.

A woman passenger on the China Airlines plane which flew Mr. Aquino to Manila gave similar testimony in 1985 during an earlier trial, but the accused were all acquitted.

The first trial was nullified last year by the Supreme Court, which said the proceedings had been manipulated by Mr. Marcos.

Mr. Barcelona, testifying at the resumption of the protracted trial of 40 people including military and cabinet officials of the Marcos era, said he was sure a soldier shot Mr. Aquino because the gunman wore a khaki uniform.

The prosecution contends that a soldier of the paramilitary constabulary shot Mr. Aquino from behind on the lower steps of the stairway, killing him almost instantly. The stairway was cordoned off by soldiers at the time.

The defense says a man hired by communist insurgents shot Mr. Aquino on the tarmac before being killed himself by soldiers guarding the politician.

The most prominent accused in the current trial are retired general Fabian Ver, a former armed forces chief of staff who fled with Mr. Marcos to Hawaii, former tourism minister Jose Aspiras, now a congressman, and former information minister Gregorio Cendana, who has also left the country.

In a break during Monday's hearing, chief state prosecutor Raul Gonzales showed reporters a note threatening him with death unless he stopped his work in the Aquino case.

The letter said: "You have not stopped fishing for evidence, stop this foolish nonsense."

Mr. Gonzales said a cleaning lady found the letter Sunday at the toilet of his office underneath a grenade.

He said he wasn't sure if the death threat was a prank or not.

Ileto Says Peace, Order Situation To Improve
*HK020930 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT
2 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 2 (AFP)—The Philippines peace and order situation will improve in 1988 despite a raging communist insurgency, Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto was quoted as saying by newspapers here Saturday.

Mr. Ileto said that the communist insurgent New People's Army (NPA) would remain the country's biggest threat but ruled out new peace talks with the NPA despite two 48-hour truces called by the government covering Christmas and New Year's day, newspapers here said.

He said that threats from right-wing coup plotters had also been reduced, adding that on a scale of 10, coup plotters rated only a one or two in their ability to mount a serious operation.

Mr. Ileto also said that the problems with Moslem secessionist groups, "will be solved in one or two months," but did not elaborate.

More than 3,700 Filipinos or an average of 10.2 people a day were killed in insurgency-related incidents in 1987, according to military figures released last month.

An additional 54 people were killed in coup attempts by renegade military men in 1987. Not all of the coup plotters have been captured.

The government opened peace talks with both the communist insurgents and Moslem secessionists in 1986 but the negotiations with the communists collapsed in early 1987 while the talks with the secessionists reached a stalemate in mid-year.

Ramos Says NPA Remains Major Threat

*HK311103 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
31 Dec 87 pp 1, 4*

[By Roy Sinfuego]

[Text] Gen Fidel V. Ramos, Armed Forces chief of staff, said yesterday in his year-end report that the Communist party of the Philippines (CPP) and its fighting arm, the New People's Army (NPA), remain the No. 1 threat to national security.

Ramos added that AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has overcome various crises and has proven that it can cope with any situation.

The general said the CPP-NPA is likely to continue exploiting the situation by stepping up tactical operations, urban terrorism, and mass movements while closely monitoring the situation to grab any opportunity to weaken the AFP and the government.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Front (NDF), the CPP's political arm, vowed yesterday to undertake in 1988 a "more intense struggle" against the Aquino government.

It said "the coming year will be one of deeper crisis for the U.S. Aquino regime."

"The CPP-NPA threat to national security is worsened by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which is expected to maintain its secessionist stand and continue to intensify its diplomatic initiatives before the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)," Ramos said.

He added that ultrarightist groups are also expected to continue their efforts to grab power since they remain capable of conducting act of terrorism.

However, the AFP chief expressed optimism that 1988 will be a much better year. He referred to a much improved and better national security situation, especially after the Jan 18 local elections and the organization of Peace and Order Councils (POC) all over the country.

Ramos said that under the 1987 AFP Action Program, the military will stabilize national security and improve the peace and order situation through security operations designed to neutralize the armed elements of the CPP-NPA, MNLF, organized crime groups, and the "private armies" of political warlords.

He cited some of the AFP's accomplishments, including the neutralization of at least three major attempts to destabilize the government—the Jan 27 GMA-Channel 7 siege by "loyalist" soldiers led by former Lt Col Reynaldo Cabauatan, the "Black Saturday" raid on Fort Bonifacio last April 18, and the Aug 28 failed coup attempt led by former Lt Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan; the arrest of Col Rolando Abadilla, a former PC officer suspected of leading several coup attempts (he was subsequently cleared by Ramos and ordered released by a Quezon City court); the capture of Honasan and five other officers last Dec 9 in Pasig, the neutralization of CPP-NPA leaders Juanito Rivera, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee and Bartolome Quizon of the CPP Central Luzon Committee, and the AFP's security arrangements for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit meeting at the PICC [Philippine International Conference Centre] last Dec 14-15.

Presenting a statistical chart and scoreboard of the AFP counter-insurgency campaign nationwide, Ramos said the AFP has conducted a total of 31,423 operations, representing a 47 percent increase over the record in 1986.

He said that 1,640 communist guerrillas were killed, 350 captured, and 1,137 assorted high-powered guns seized by government troops.

The government, however, said 1,068 soldiers were killed in action and lost 1,664 firearms; 890 civilians, including 64 government officials, were killed or wounded by NPA "Sparrow Units" (death squads).

On the Muslim secessionist movement, 192 MNLF rebels were killed after violating the ceasefire agreement, while nine rebels were captured, Ramos said.

He added that a total of 40,449 mass supporters, NPA regulars, and sympathizers have defected and surrendered to the government.

During yesterday's year-end press conference at the AFP Commissioned Officers' Club in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Ramos said that the AFP has fielded more combat and operational troops for field duty, increasing the front-line units and giving more flexibility and decision-making authority to field commanders.

He said the AFP strategy of shifting troops to the "center of gravity"—the redeployment of combat forces—was undertaken to neutralize the activities of the CPP-NPA in critical areas.

He said eight tactical brigade bases were developed to facilitate the command of maneuver units in the field, providing housing for troops, attracting population, and boosting economic growth in the countryside.

Ramos said "it is also a steadfast principle of the AFP to instill in each soldier an abiding respect for human rights even in the most desperate combat situations and to curb corruption in the military, several directives were issued in line with the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (Rep Act 3019)."

Vice Task Force Official Wounded; Two Dead

*BK031144 Hong Kong AFP in English 1136 GMT
3 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 3 (AFP)—The head of Philippine President Corazon Aquino's Anti-Vice Task Force was wounded early Sunday in a shooting which left two of his bodyguards dead, police said.

Potenciano Roque, commissioner of the Presidential Anti-Gambling Task Force, and his men were inside a garage near Antipolo town, east of Manila, when unidentified men burst in and opened fire with automatic rifles, an Antipolo police spokesman said.

Two of his bodyguards were killed while Mr. Roque, 34, was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound to his right elbow, the spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He said they were still investigating the possible motive for the shooting and the identities of the assailants.

Ramos Orders Probe Into NPA Truce Violations

*BK040959 Manila PNA in English 0937 GMT
4 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan. 04 (PNA-OANA)—Philippine military chief Gen. Fidel V. Ramos Monday ordered an investigation into reported violations by communist guerrillas of the recent holiday ceasefire.

"I think they are not interested in any ceasefire of any kind especially if it means they are foregoing violence as a policy," he told newsmen.

General Ramos was referring to the series of bloody ambushes mounted by guerrillas of the communist New People's Army (NPA) during the holiday season, killing scores of soldiers and civilians.

Hours before the New Year's Eve last Thursday, rebels killed 16 persons, including six soldiers and a police detective, in separate ambushes in northern and central Philippines.

Both the Philippine Government and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) had earlier agreed to a 48-hour truce during Christmas and New Year.

President Aquino said the ceasefire was meant to enable all Filipinos to enjoy the yuletide season.

General Ramos deplored that despite the truce, the rebels launched aggressive actions, which, he said, only undermined their sincerity in achieving peace in the country.

"We did our part to maintain the spirit of the holidays and at the same time support President Aquino's peace policy," he said.

The violence-marred ceasefire was the second entered into between the Aquino government and the communist rebels.

Early last year, similar arrangements were agreed upon by both sides, but it collapsed. Both the military and the rebels accused each other of truce violations.

Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto said he is against any resumption of peace negotiations with the communists this year "unless they agree to lay down their arms."

17 Slain During Truce

HK021314 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT
2 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan 2 (AFP)—Philippine military reports released Saturday brought to 17 the total number of people slain during a 48-hour government-declared truce with the communist New People's Army (NPA).

Twelve people, including an administration candidate for town mayor, were slain by the NPA on Thursday, military spokesmen said, in addition to the deaths of another mayoral candidate, a military agent, two NPA's and a bystander which had been previously reported.

Six soldiers and five civilian hitchhikers were slain in the northern town of Alibab on Thursday when 40 heavily armed NPA guerrillas ambushed an army vehicle carrying a wounded soldier to hospital, the military said here.

Later, an administration mayoral candidate was shot dead by an NPA assassin in San Miguel town in the southern province of Zamboanga del Sur Friday, military commanders in the south said.

Pacifico Ocapan, 46, was shot dead while in a gamecock stadium Friday by a lone gunman who then left a note on his body, saying Mr. Ocapan was an enemy of the NPA, the military added.

Earlier, the military reported that another administration town mayoral candidate, Jose Geromo 49, was shot dead by four NPA's in Molave town, also in Zamboanga del Sur while two NPA's, a military agent and a 12-year-old boy were killed in a clash in central Samar Island, both on Thursday.

The December 31-January 1 moratorium on offensive operations was declared by the government on the urging of church and pacifist groups. The NPA did not declare a similar truce but called for defensive operations only, which analysts said was tantamount to a truce.

The truce followed a generally successful 48-hour Christmas truce declared separately by both the government and the insurgents.

Meanwhile, a police detective in the central island of Bacolod was shot dead and a female bystander wounded by suspected communist assassins in what might be the first attack by the NPA since the end of the truce.

3 Reported Kidnapped

HK020918 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0800 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Four persons were killed, including an army intelligence officer, and three others were kidnapped by communist rebels during the second phase of the holiday moratorium. The report received by Camp Crame states that Technical Sergeant Pedro Argenio was shot by three suspected NPA hitmen as he was leaving the University of the Eastern Philippines campus in Catarman, Samar. His two companions, Captain Romeo Dignos and Fernando Bombo, were wounded in the incident. Two rebels were killed by the military during the rescue operation, and a 14-year-old youth was hit by a stray bullet during the exchange of fire.

Ramos Says NPA Trying To Sabotage Folls

HK041303 Quezon City MALAYA in English
3 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[By Vot Vitug and Nestor Arellano]

[Text] Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Armed Forces chief of staff, said Friday the communist-led NPA is trying to sabotage the government's efforts to make the Jan. 18 local elections credible.

Ramos in effect disputed an earlier claim by the NPA that it would not sabotage the local polls because this would cost the rebels their mass following.

Citing military reports that in some areas the insurgents have been providing "strong armed services" to certain candidates for a fee "regardless of political persuasions," Ramos also said the NPA scheme is that if these candidates won, they would be eventually forced to join the communists in their struggle to seize political power.

Ramos said measures taken by the military to improve the national security situation would fail if the election results proved to be questionable.

On the long-term communist threat, Ramos said the military is banking on elected local officials, who will manage the local peace and order councils, to draw up a security defense plan. He pointed out that this plan should embody two components—the military and non-military.

He said the latter component still needs to be developed by local officials.

Ramos said AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has been convincing rival candidates nationwide to agree among themselves to help ensure peaceful and orderly elections by avoiding the use of "guns, goons and gold."

NPA Demands 'Protection Money' for Elections

*HK040747 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0600 GMT 4 Jan 88*

[Text] The NPA is demanding protection money in San Fernando, Pampanga of P20,000 to P25,000 from every candidate campaigning in central Luzon. This was reported by Major Vidal Quirol, assistant operations chief of Central Luzon Integrated National Police Command. Quirol said he received a report saying that several candidates were giving money to the rebels so that they can campaign in barangays controlled by the NPA. Among the places mentioned are Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Tarlac, Bataan, and Aurora.

Thailand

Prime Minister's Prem New Year's Message

*BK011244 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1308 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon's New Year's message; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear fraternal Thai people: This passing year of 1987 is an extremely auspicious year for the Thai people and country since it marks the fifth cycle birthday of his majesty the king. The year 1988 that will arrive in the next few hours will also be another auspicious year for every Thai person for 2 July 1988, 6 months from now, represents the day when His Majesty King Phumiphon

Adunyadet the Great will have reigned over the country longer than any king in the history of the Thai nation. These two auspicious occasions bring joy and happiness to the entire Thai people who have been living in tranquillity under his majesty's patronage and are always grateful to their majesties the king and queen as well as other members of the royal family for their endeavors and activities for the well being of the Thai people and country.

On the occasion of the arrival of the new year, I invite all Thai people to extend their humble best wishes to their majesties the king and queen for longevity and pray for the longevity of the Chakkri Dynasty so that it will flourish together with the Thai nation forever.

I would like to take this opportunity to report to you, fraternal people, the major achievements scored by the government during the passing year as time permits:

In the economic area, the country's economy, once a heavy problem for the country, showed an improving trend and registered a growth rate of 5.6%, a drastic increase compared with those in the 2 previous years. In particular, the country's exports increased by over 22% while earnings from tourism rose by over 20%.

Despite the rise in imports due to the purchase of large quantities of machinery and equipment needed for the development of the country, our annual trade and current account deficits were not very high while an amount of surplus in the balance of payments was recorded. Meanwhile, the inflation rate was only 2.8%. These factors indicate a good trend for our country's economy next year.

Touching on the problem of foreign debts which was once regarded as a heavy and gradually aggravating burden for us, in 1985 we had to spend as much as 22% of our export earnings to pay foreign debts. I and the government used to tell you, fraternal, people that such a condition was very dangerous for our country. We, therefore, regard this as one of the problems to which we attached high significance and took all possible measures to alleviate. Up to now, we have succeeded to a certain extent. That is, in 1987 the payment of foreign debts took only 17% of our export earnings.

Although the general improvement of the country's economy has been achieved as I have mentioned, I am always aware that many undertakings have to be carried out. Particularly, precautionary measures must be taken against unfavorable repercussions from the fluctuation of the international economy which are expected to take place next year.

Poverty among our fraternal people in the rural areas is another important issue. It is my and the government's policy to find a solution to this problem. As you probably know, I have always attached high significance to the efforts to solve the fundamental problems now plaguing

our poor people in the rural areas. We have substantial information to prove that the livelihood and quality of life of the fraternal poor people in the rural areas have gradually improved. As the country's economy is expected to improve in the coming period, we must take this good opportunity to distribute the fruits of development more thoroughly. I would like to assure you that I will continue to pay my consistent attention to this problem.

I would like to inform you that I have instructed the government agencies concerned to take actions to ensure a more effective and fairer distribution of income to the rural people. Especially, our agricultural policy stresses that we must try all possible ways and means and make continuous efforts to introduce new crops which can bring higher incomes. As for our industrial policy, we will expand industrialization to the less industrialized areas. Although we have to face and overcome numerous problems and obstacles, I am determined to try all ways and means to achieve this.

In politics and security, as everybody knows, the government has continuously promoted the development of the democratic form of administration with the king as head of state. Furthermore, the government has also consistently taken measures to maintain security, peace, and order in the country and made serious efforts to secure the interests and well being of the people and country.

Regarding foreign affairs, it is obvious that the government broadened relations with foreign countries during the past year and did its utmost to defend the country's legitimate interests in all areas through contacts at international and regional levels as well as through international organizations, especially at the United Nations, which has earned wide credibility and recognition for the country.

Dear fraternal people, despite our remarkable joint efforts to tackle problems and obstacles, our country is not yet completely free from problems and obstacles. Certain problems are still there, and we will have to face them. I believe that if the government and private sectors as well as every person join hands and minds, we can well alleviate and overcome those problems and obstacles. In this regard, I wish to quote part of his majesty the king's address delivered from the Chaimangkhalaphisek Throne Hall for the people who were gathered at the Sanam Luang grounds on 5 December to extend their greetings to his majesty on the occasion of his fifth cycle birthday. His Majesty said: Unity is an important virtue that the people in a society must safeguard and regularly observe. All undertakings of society at all levels require joint mental and physical efforts. If each party works with good intentions, knowledge, intelligence, rationalism, and creativity any task can be fulfilled and satisfactory results obtained.

I appeal to the Thai people, the loyal subjects of his majesty the king, to adhere strictly to this royal quotation so that we will be able to consolidate our mental and physical forces to overcome all problems and obstacles in order to further develop our country and turn it into a prosperous nation.

May the merits of the religions we profess and the sovereign power of their majesties the king and queen protect our fraternal Thai people and bring them happiness, prosperity, wisdom, virtues, and unity so that we can work toward the prosperity of our country.

Happy New Year.

King Phumiphon Delivers New Year's Message
BK010520 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1300 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Thai King Phumiphon Adunyadet's New Year's Message; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] All Thai people: As the new year approaches, it is a time for us to think of and greet each other with good wishes for the fulfillment of his wishes, such as the wishes for good physical and mental happiness and good health, financial position, and honor. Those who have conflicts and misunderstanding with others should forge understanding and kindly forgive each other. Those who mutually support each other should customarily thank one another.

I want to greatly thank you for your considerate organization of the grand celebrations of my fifth cycle birthday which lasted for several days. The celebrations covered many aspects and were aimed at generating benefits for the people at large, and for the whole year each individual and sector earnestly prepared and implemented the celebrations together to ensure the desired success and completeness, thus gaining praise from everyone, even foreigners, who witnessed the celebrations.

I continue to be impressed by the encouragement given to me by people of all ages, genders, positions and duties—all with their faces and appearances showing joy and happiness. It can be said that during the 5 days of celebration ceremonies everyone in the kingdom was filled with happiness and good understanding for each other. This should confirm that kindness, solidarity, and good intentions toward each other continue to be in the mind of the Thai people. If all of us try to think a great deal about the interests, happiness and prosperity of the nation at large and to always view each other in constructive manner, we will understand each other and achieve good cooperation with one another, as was the case in our cooperation in successful implementation of many past major events.

On the occasion of the new year, I appeal to all of you to work toward attaining clear thinking and good understanding with each other and then combine this good thinking and understanding to carry out and develop your own work and the work of the country at large so that it will progress smoothly and firmly, which will help us fulfill our wishes for the benefits, happiness, and progress without much difficulty.

May the might of the three gems [Lord Buddha, his teachings, and his disciples] and other sacred beings that Thai people revere and believe in effectively protect the kingdom from all forms of sadness, problems, and danger and provide every Thai citizen with strong and complete physical, mental, and intellectual power and the power of solidarity to perform his small or big tasks and duties in such a manner that they will enhance each other to the benefit of himself and the country at large, as well as of continued national independence, sovereignty, progress, and peace.

May everyone of you meet only with happiness and prosperity and the fulfillment of your wishes.

Lao Ambassador Interviewed on Talks Dispute

BK010150 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
1 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Laotian ambassador to Thailand Khamphan Simmalavong said Wednesday the next round of Thai-Lao talks to solve border problems must be without any preconditions.

In an interview with *THE NATION*, Khamphan said both sides should discuss other "unsettled problems," which might include the three disputed villages along the border in Uttaradit.

He said the Laotian Government has informed Bangkok through the Thai Embassy in Vientiane of its request.

Meanwhile, Sarot Chawanawirat, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, criticized the Laotian ambassador saying that his breach of protocol was a "hostile act" against Thailand.

He said Khamphan knows Thailand and its diplomatic channels very well but he continues to sow discord in Thailand.

He said Thailand's demand on an agreed agenda and rules of conduct beforehand is not a "precondition" but rather a framework to assure tangible results from the next round of talks.

However, Khamphan contended that the Thai demand was a precondition, which the Lao side still could not accept.

He said Laos is willing to talk with a Thai delegation either in Bangkok or in Vientiane, but not in other countries since the dialogues will aim at settling Thai-Lao disputes.

Vientiane has proposed the third round of Thai-Lao talks several times, but Thailand wants to discuss economic issues first, the ambassador said.

On the territorial dispute along the common border near the northern province of Phitsanulok, Khamphan claimed that Laos has evidence, including a map attached to the 1907 Siam-France Treaty, that shows the disputed area is on Lao soil.

But he said the Laotians will show their evidence when the third round of talks is held.

He added that Laos wants high-level talks to be held with Thailand before both sides go to the technical level.

"The situation tends to facilitate the talks," said Khamphan, citing a meeting between Khmer resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Premier Hun Sen of the Vietnam-backed Kampuchea in France last month.

The Thai spokesman also dismissed the allegation made by the Laotian ambassador to the Soviet Union that Thailand has the intention to cause tension in Indochina.

"The reality indicates it's the other way round," Sarot said, adding that the real tension was caused by the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

Sarasin Wiraphon, deputy director general of the Political Affairs Department, said that Thailand will send an explanatory note to Laos soon.

"If Vientiane is serious about the talks, it should counterpropose Thailand with a reasonable framework," he said.

The Laotian ambassador also reiterated that Laos could not accept a Thai request to change the leader of its delegation for the next round of talks.

He said Vientiane considers the matter its internal affairs, adding that the Lao side has never asked Thailand to change its delegation.

Bangkok has made the request because Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat, chief of Laos' delegation, launched a verbal attack against Thailand during the second round of talks in Bangkok in March.

Khamphan also dismissed the Thai Foreign Ministry's charge that he violated protocol by approaching Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut for negotiations on Thai-Lao disputes earlier this month.

The ambassador claimed that he only met Chawalit personally since the Thai army chief has relatives in Laos.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila criticized Khamphan for violating protocol regarding the planned visit of Acting Lao President Phoumi Vongvichit.

Thai-Lao relations have been strained since 1975.

Thailand and Laos are locked in a dispute over the possession of the three border villages of Mai, Klang and Sawang in Uttaradit Province.

A new round of dispute erupted early this year when Laos laid claim to border villages and mountain terrain near Chattrakan District of Phitsanulok.

Daily Views Envoy's Actions

BK031345 Bangkok *THAI RAT* in Thai
3 Jan 88 p 3

[Editorial: "A Lesson for the Lao Ambassador"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has accused the LPDR ambassador to Thailand of some actions incompatible with diplomatic etiquette and of using abrasive words because the Foreign Ministry considers that the Lao ambassador interfered in the internal affairs of Thailand and his acts are "inappropriate" to diplomacy.

Probably the accusation came because the Lao ambassador raised some bilateral issues with the Thai Army commander in chief during a funeral for a respected person. Later, the Foreign Ministry learned of it and accused the Lao ambassador of violating diplomatic etiquette. This was also likely because the Lao ambassador raised some issues which should have been discussed officially with someone in the Foreign Ministry, and so the ambassador has been seriously criticized because he is the representative of a country which has problems with Thailand at present.

However, we should separate the ambassador's diplomatic status from his personal acquaintances, and his personal status from his official status representing his country, a neighbor and brotherly country of Thailand. Although this contact would not lead to any talks on the border problem or on official issues between Laos and Thailand, the Foreign Ministry should look at each status in handling the issue.

We are not going to resolve the estrangement between Thailand and Laos unless we seek to cooperate to bring stability to this region and to bring peace between the two nations even though the two countries are different politically and economically. However, we cannot refrain from paying attention to a small country which has been our brotherly neighbor for a long time.

If all parties concerned become emotional or excessively principled and apply the rules strictly to such a person, no compromise between the two brotherly countries will be achieved. Thailand, regarded as a country with greater maturity, should itself behave properly rather than becoming emotional in its relations toward a country which has problems and is a very close neighbor of Thailand.

Likewise, there is a lesson for the Lao ambassador. Because he did something that caused a problem, he too should learn to behave within proper limits. He should be mindful of his failure to distinguish between the status of individual and a representative of a country. Even a small issue can cause problems or aggravate the conflict. However, this problem should not be allowed to become an obstacle to cooperation on settling bilateral issues.

General on New Tactics in Border Fighting

BK030045 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
3 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The Thai defence force battling the Laotian troops at a disputed border area in Phitsanulok Province will soon adopt new tactics to resolve the situation, the army spokesman said yesterday.

Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut did not spell out the reasons behind the new move and what the tactical adjustments will be, but he said Thai and Laotian troops are both sustaining heavy casualties in the current fighting at the border area in Chattrakan District.

A Thai soldier was reported missing after the fighting on Dec 17, the spokesman said.

He said both sides are still holding on to their positions in the military stalemate.

Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Charuai Wongsayan quoted a latest field report as showing that Thai troops had overrun about 90 percent of Hill 1428, one of the three border hills claimed by both countries.

He said unless Laotian troops there were reinforced, the Thai defence force should be able to push them out of Thai soil soon.

"Laotian troops should pull out of the border, given the evidence that our Foreign Ministry has provided," he said.

The Foreign Ministry has provided French, American and Lao maps showing that the disputed area is inside Thailand.

Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong added that the military will take every necessary measure to flush out the intruders as soon as possible.

Muslims Allegedly Slain by Army Rangers
BK030911 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] A number of Muslim residents of Pattani province have appealed to Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut to investigate the deaths of four relatives who they say were killed by army rangers in November.

The relatives' appeal was forwarded to Gen Chawalit through his aide, Col Prasit Nawarat, Pattani MP Den Tomina said yesterday.

He said the relatives first submitted their appeal to him on December 27. He in turn presented it to Col Prasit.

Apart from an investigation, the Muslims asked that legal action be taken and compensation be paid for the alleged killings, which reportedly took place on November 26 in a jungle area near the border of Sabayoi district of Songkhla province.

Mr. Den identified the four Muslims said to have been killed as Da-o Hamat, Sakariya Hamat, Ya Da-o and Maruding Sae-mae, all of Khok Pho district.

The relatives said, according to Mr Den, that seven Muslims had been rounded up on November 26 by rangers of the 43rd Ranger Regiment of the Fourth Army.

They were taken into the jungle and shot, the relatives said.

Four died instantly but three survived, Mr Den said, adding that he had met the three purported survivors. Mr Den did not say how the three managed to escape.

The four victims were buried immediately after they were shot, but their bodies were later dug up by relatives, he said.

The relatives then brought the bodies before officials of the Southern Border Provincial Administration Centre and demanded justice.

The four-time MP said he was shocked when told of the incident, adding that the alleged murders were similar to a 1975 incident in which five Muslims were slain by officials. That incident sparked off a protest from local residents.

"I don't expect such incidents to occur during Gen Chawalit's tenure. I hope that justice will be done in the case," Mr Den said.

Meanwhile, a senior Fourth Army officer said yesterday that the Army was already investigating the allegations.

The source quoted Fourth Army Commander Lt Gen Wisit Atkhumwong as saying the Army would take severe action against the rangers if they were found to be involved in the killings.

Four Detained Senior CPT Officials Released
BK030700 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
3 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] At 0900 on 2 January a ceremony was held at Karunthep Center, a site for detention of communist suspects in Nakhon Pathom Province, to release four communist suspects: Waithun Sinthuwanit, a CPT Politburo member and CPT Central Committee members Prasoet Thaotongchai, Nok Bunyodom, and Pun Kaeo-hanam.

The 4 released suspects are among 18 communist suspects arrested on 18 April 1987 after attending a party meeting in Bang Saen, Chon Buri Province. The investigating officers felt that the four have repented and released them in accordance with Article 17 of the Communist Act. They are the second batch of suspects to be released from among those arrested on 18 April.

Of the nine communist suspects still in detention—Chitchanok Sophonpan, Onsi Inthawuthichai, Sombat Chairot, Nop Prasoetsom, Niphaphan Phatthanaphai-bun, Wirot Bunphet, Somphong Wichitchaiphan, Nop-phadon Phakdi, and Somnuk Phongphichit—four reportedly are being considered for release while the other five will be put on trial due to their lack of cooperation during investigation.

Vietnam

Further on Afghan Delegation's Official Visit

Nhan Dan Welcomes Delegation
OW251820 Hanoi VNA in English 0745 GMT
25 Dec 87

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Dec. 25—"The Vietnamese people acclaim and take pride in the steady advance of the Afghan revolution," says the daily NHAN DAN today welcoming the official friendship visit to Vietnam by a high-level delegation of the party and state of the Republic of Afghanistan which is expected here today.

NHAN DAN editorially says: [Words indistinct] decade since the historic April Revolution, the [words indistinct] Afghan people have surmounted untold difficulties and trials and [word indistinct] step by step very important victories. The people of all ethnic groupings in the country have fought courageously [word indistinct] their revolutionary gains and foil the undeclared [word indistinct] launched by the imperialist and other reactionary forces. The policy of [word indistinct] reconciliation of the Afghan Government has brought about major successes.

"The recent [word indistinct] of Afghanistan's Constitution and election of party General Secretary Najibullah as president of the state are a new manifestation of the national unity and high determination of the Afghan people of all walks of life to continue advancing the country along the path of the April Revolution," the paper notes. In the present circumstances when [word indistinct] has not yet materialized and in the wake of severe natural calamities, the Afghan people however, have obtained new big achievements in both the economic and cultural fields."

The editorial goes on:

"In the first ten months of 1987, the second year of the national socio-economic development plan, the rate of industrial development has increased by 50 percent over the average in the years after the revolution. Dozens of new projects have been put into [word indistinct]. The output of agriculture was close to the figure in 1982, that of cotton was up by 33 percent compared with the corresponding period in 1986. This year, 77 more schools have opened [words indistinct] various ethnic groups."

The Republic of Afghanistan's prestige is constantly rising on the international arena.

The all-round achievements of the Republic of Afghanistan have not only consolidated the strength and power of the Afghan revolution but also made active contributions to the common struggle of nations for peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the world as a whole. This is the result of the fighting spirit, creative labour and the strength of the entire Afghan people's solidarity and of the pure and close friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

We believe that the visit to Vietnam this time by the high-level party and state delegation of Afghanistan will contribute to the further consolidation and strengthening of the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between our two countries and peoples and open a new step in the development of the Vietnam-Afghanistan relations, the paper says in conclusion.

Agreements Signed

LD282243 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Abdul Hamid Muhtat, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, signed a cultural and science cooperation agreement for 1987-89.

According to another report, Nguyen Di Nien, SRV vice minister of foreign affairs, and Mohammad Shafi Azimi, ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan in Vietnam, signed an agreement on consular affairs and the abolishment of visas for Afghan and Vietnamese citizens.

Similarly, Mohammad Sakhi Daneshjoo, of the Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Nguyen Di Nien, SRV deputy minister of foreign affairs, signed a cooperation agreement for 1987-12.

Present during the signing of this agreement were 'Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee and Afghan foreign minister, and Shahnawaz Tanay, candidate member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chief of the Afghanistan Army staff. On the Vietnamese side were Vo Chi Cong, Tran Van Dao, Nguyen Canh Dinh, and other Vietnamese senior party and state officials.

Editorial Hails Outcome

BK041012 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Report on 30 December NHAN DAN editorial: "The New Step of Development in Vietnam-Afghanistan Relations"]

[Text] On the occasion of the official friendship visit to our country of the party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan which has just concluded with fine success, NHAN DAN today [30 December] carries an editorial entitled: "The New Step of Development of the Vietnam-Afghanistan Relations."

The editorial says in part as follows: Our party, state, and people heartily received the delegation with the warm feelings of comrades in arms. The talks between the Afghan party and state delegation and our party and state delegation took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, sincerity, friendship, and solidarity. The joint statement and the important documents adopted during the visit reflected the two sides' identity of views on issues regarding bilateral relations as well as the international issues of mutual concern. The delegation's successful visit to Vietnam marked an important new step of development in the fine traditional relations which have for long bound the two fraternal peoples of Vietnam and Afghanistan. The two sides unanimously agreed to further strengthen the relations of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two parties, two states, and two peoples on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation which has just been signed, in the interests of the cause of each country's national construction and defense.

The envoys of Afghanistan brought to our people the warm sentiments of the heroic Afghan people and affirmed full support for the line of construction and renovation put forth by our sixth party congress and for the initiatives and ceaseless efforts of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to achieve a peaceful settlement of the various problems in Southeast Asia and the Cambodia issue. The two sides warmly welcomed and highly appreciated the results of the meeting between Comrade Hun

Sen and Prince Sihanouk in Paris, considering it as a starting point for the eventual achievement of a correct solution to the Cambodia issue.

On this occasion, our party, state, and people heartily welcomed the outstanding achievements the DRA has recorded in struggle and national construction. Once again, they expressed solidarity with and strong support for the Afghan people's national reconciliation policy and glorious revolutionary cause aimed at building a peaceful, independent, nonaligned, and prosperous country.

The editorial stresses: The Vietnam-Afghanistan joint statement once again affirmed the determination of the two peoples to continue making positive contributions to the common struggle for world peace and security as well as to the lofty objectives of the Nonaligned Movement. Together with the fraternal Afghan people, our people are extremely elated at the great success of the official friendship visit to Vietnam of the Afghan party and state delegation. This is a source of encouragement for our two peoples to overcome all difficulties and trials and to continue steadily advancing the revolutionary cause of each country. Our people pledge to fully discharge our obligations as stipulated in the treaty and agreements which have just been signed between the two sides and to do their utmost to make the tree of Vietnam-Afghanistan friendship ceaselessly blossom and bear fruit. This is in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in Asia, the Pacific, and the rest of the world.

PRK-Afghanistan Joint Declaration Reported

*BK011631 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT
1 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 1-A joint declaration has been issued in Phnom Penh at the end of a three-day visit (December 29-31) of a high-level delegation of Afghanistan led by Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

During its stay in Kampuchea, the Afghan delegation was warmly received by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the People's Republic of Kampuchea State Council. The delegation laid a wreath at the monument to war heroes, visited the national exhibition, the Toul Leng Museum of Genocide and a number of economic and cultural establishments in Phnom Penh, the capital city.

During official talks between the Afghan delegation and a delegation of the Kampuchean party and state, the Afghan side expressed its firm solidarity with and support for the just cause of the fraternal people of Kampuchea in the successful realization of the policy of national reconciliation, guarantee for the right of self-determination and in achieving the lofty objective of national

salvation initiated by the resurrection of January 1979. The Afghan side hailed the sincere endeavour of the Kampuchean leadership for the immediate normalization and stabilization of the situation in the region and the transformation of South-East Asia into a zone of lasting peace, stability, cooperation and good neighbourliness, and fully supported the historic meeting between comrade Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk aimed at solving the Kampuchean issue by peaceful means.

The Kampuchean side expressed firm support for the outcome of the second nation-wide PDPA conference and the Loya Jirga (Grand National Assembly) directed towards the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation in the interest of peace and stability in the country and in the region.

The two sides stressed the determination of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Republic of Afghanistan to closely cooperate and contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in Asia.

The two sides highly valued and firmly supported the initiative of the Soviet Union put forth by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU in Vladivostok in relation to the concept of bringing about stability and in the Asia-Pacific area, as well as the Delhi declaration on the creation of nuclear-free and non-violence world and the initiatives of the People's Republic of Mongolia for convening a conference on the non-use of force and non-aggression in the relations among the Asian and Pacific countries.

The two sides hailed the untiring peace efforts of the Soviet Union and other peace-loving countries, and warmly welcomed the conclusion of the treaty on the elimination of intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles in Washington on December 8, 1987 as a manifestation of good results compatible with the desire of the whole humanity who only aspires to live in peace and a world without the threat of nuclear war.

The two sides welcomed the peace foreign policy of India and highly appreciated the contribution of India to the solution of regional and international problems directed towards the strengthening of peace and stability in Asia and the world over. Both sides warmly welcomed the plan for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

At the end of the talks the two sides signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation and other documents.

Comrade Najibullah invited Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the PRPK, and president of the Kampuchean State Council, to pay an official friendship visit to the Republic of Afghanistan. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date of the visit will be agreed upon through the diplomatic channel.

NHAN DAN Lists Outstanding Events in 1987

BK010825 Hanoi VNA in English
0718 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 1—The daily NHAN DAN today carries in its front page the following eight outstanding international events in 1987:

1—The Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington (December 7-10) and the signing of the first agreement in history on the abolition of medium and shorter range missiles opened the possibility for mankind to avert the danger of a nuclear war and advance toward the establishment of stable peace and security on earth.

2—Many countries in the world celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, highly praising the Soviet Union's invaluable contributions to mankind and expressing their strong support for the all-round and thoroughgoing restructuring in the Soviet Union. This restructuring is exerting a broad and profound influence on the world and raising the prestige of the realist socialism of the Soviet Union on the international arena.

3—The first ever meeting in Moscow of the communist, workers and social democratic parties, and parties of national independent countries and progressive movements in the world on the occasion of celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution affirmed their will to unite and coordinate actions in the struggle for the noble ideas of the October Revolution.

4—The most serious and profound crisis on the stock market in the United States and the whole capitalist world since 1929-1933 has rocked the whole capitalist economy and is facing the U.S. economy with great difficulties and increasing the already acute contradictions among the three capitalist economic centres: The United State, Japan and Western Europe.

5—The meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk in Fere-en-Tardenois (France) from Dec 2-4 was a breakthrough in the 9-year-old stalemate in the Kampuchea issue, creating an important opening toward and appropriate solution with a view to establishing real peace in Kampuchea and Southeast Asia.

6—The Iran-Contragate scandal demonstrated a deep crisis in U.S. political institution. This is also a manifestation of the "credibility gap" in the foreign policy of the United States.

7—The peace accord of the five Central American countries signed in Guatemala on August 7 proves that the trend of dialogue is developing aimed at settling regional issues through negotiations. This accord received wide public support in the world despite the U.S. policy of division and confrontation.

8—The persistent struggle of the South Korean people for democracy and social progress has forced Chon Tu-hwan to step down.

Southeast Asia Situation for 1987 Reviewed

BK291115 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Commentary by Duong Quang Minh: "Southeast Asia—A Year of Encouraging Changes"]

[Text] In 1987, Southeast Asia has witnessed encouraging changes. After 8 years of tense confrontation, the trend of dialogue aimed at seeking a political solution to the Cambodian issue and regional peace and stability has constantly developed and been actively sought after by the parties concerned. The meeting in late July at Ho Chi Minh City between Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach representing the Indochinese countries and Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja representing the ASEAN countries, which led to an agreement on holding cocktail parties between the Cambodian sides, was at that time regarded by public opinion as the most significant breakthrough in the past 8 years, and its results far exceeded what had been achieved previously.

The PRK Government's 27 August statement on national reconciliation in Cambodia has been considered by public opinion as a positive policy creating favorable conditions for the Cambodian people at home and abroad to contribute to national construction and defense as their capabilities permit. Next, in the 8 October statement, the PRK Government presented in a comprehensive manner its stand and rational and reasonable proposals for a political solution to the Cambodian issue in both the domestic and international aspects so as to contribute toward peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Public opinion highly appreciates this statement and regards it as a document having great persuasive power in solving the Cambodian issue.

In coordination with these great efforts, the SRV and the PRK, with total support from the LPDR, conducted satisfactorily in late November the sixth withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia as witnessed by dozens of observers from many countries and hundreds of newsmen from all the continents. Together with the five previous ones, the sixth troop withdrawal has brought the number of Vietnamese army volunteers pulled out of Cambodia to almost one-half of the total; and it will lead to their complete withdrawal in 1990. Thus, the issue involving the withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia has been and is being resolved in practice. The impact of these untiring efforts was by no means small. On 18 September, Prince Norodom Sihanouk put forward an initiative concerning the Cambodian parties meeting each other without preconditions; and such a meeting took place in early December in France between Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, and Prince Sihanouk, and

produced a 4-point joint communique of historic significance in which it is clearly stated that the Cambodian issue must be settled through peaceful negotiations among Cambodians. Public opinion throughout the world greatly welcomed the outcome of the meeting and considered it the key to solving the Cambodian issue in conformity with the interests of the Cambodia and its people and with the trend of our times.

Meanwhile, the summit conference of the ASEAN countries, in its 25 December Manila statement, expressed the desire to turn Southeast Asia into a nuclear-free zone of peace, stability, and neutrality. It welcomed the meeting between Cambodian Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk, stressing at the same time that this meeting is the first step toward a settlement of the Cambodian issue. This reflects the constructive character of the Manila statement. It shows that the trend toward maintaining confrontation and causing tension is being driven back, and that the trend which is gaining response is that of dialogue.

The encouraging changes in the Southeast Asian situation in 1987 result from the untiring efforts undertaken by the Cambodian people, the LPDR, and the SRV in the interest of the peaceful life and the independence of Cambodia and its people. As always, the three fraternal countries on the Indochinese Peninsula wish to put an end as early as possible to the suffering caused to the Cambodian people by the protracted war of aggression waged by imperialism and the genocidal scourge of the Pol Pot clique; and to mobilize all the spiritual strength of Cambodians at home and abroad for ensuring national reconstruction and development and firmly consolidating the independence, freedom, and the revival of their country. Along with trying to solve the Cambodian issue, the Indochinese countries have also done their best to dispel the dark cloud in the relations between the two groups of Indochinese and ASEAN countries and direct their efforts toward resolving more practical and broader issues in order to contribute to the process of development in each country and cooperation among countries in the framework of peaceful coexistence.

We understand that in today's world, the policy of national reconciliation and international cooperation plays a decisive role in the elimination of regional conflict. The pursuit of this policy will open the way for ending meaningless civil wars, eliminating contradictions among different forces and political groups, and resolving pressing national and regional issues. The development of the situation in Cambodia in particular and in Southeast Asia in general is consistent with the trend of our times.

VNA Reports Indochinese Labor Conference
BK270314 Hanoi VNA in English 1543 GMT
26 Dec 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 26—A conference on labour cooperation between Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam has been held in Phnom Penh. The Kampuchean delegation to the conference, S.P.K. reports, was led by Keo

Samut, vice minister of planning, the Lao delegation led by Khamphet Phommavan, vice chairman of the Lao State Planning Committee, and the Vietnamese delegation by Le Khac Hieu, vice minister of disabled soldiers and social affairs. The conference, the second of its kind so far, reviewed the implementation of the agreement on economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation signed between the three countries in Vientiane, capital of Laos, in 1986. The next conference will be held in Vietnam.

Amity Group Criticizes Thai Stand on Border
BK030158 Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT
2 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 2—The recent acts of aggression against Laos by the ultra-rightists in the Thai ruling circles prove that "Thailand has not given up its attempt to grab Lao territory and deliberately hinder the settlement of the Lao-Thai dispute through negotiation."

This comes in a statement jointly issued here today by the Vietnam-AAPSO Committee and the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association, condemning the repeated armed attacks by Thai troops on Laos's Boten District, Sayaboury Province, from Dec 15-24 and from Dec 27-28, 1987.

The statement demanded that Thailand immediately stop its hostile acts against Laos and meet the LPDR's proposals for talks on an equal footing and without preconditions to solve outstanding issues in the bilateral relations.

"That is the best way to bring about a peaceful life for the people of both Laos and Thailand, which also conforms to the common trend in the world as well as in the region, namely to solve all conflicts through negotiation and contribute to making Southeast Asia a zone of peace, stability and cooperation," the statement concluded.

Greetings Sent to Burmese Counterparts
BK031540 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT
3 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 3—President Vo Chi Cong and Chairman Pham Hung have sent greetings to their Burmese counterparts on the 40th independence day of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma (Jan 4).

The congratulatory messages were addressed to U San Yu, president and chairman of the State Council, and U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister of the Union of Burma.

The Vietnamese leaders expressed their wishes for more, greater achievements of the Burmese people in defending and building a peaceful, prosperous and happy Burma, and for constant and fruitful development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Burmese Ambassador Gives Reception in Hanoi

BK031542 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 03 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 3—Burmese ambassador to Vietnam P. Kyaw Han gave a reception here this evening in celebration of the 40th independence day of Burma (Jan 4).

Prominent among his Vietnamese guests were Vice-Chairman Tran Duc Luong, Minister of Justice Phan Hien and Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Xuan Ang.

In their toasts, P. Kyaw Han and Tran Duc Luong wished the further development of the friendship between the two countries.

Students Study Russian Language in South

BK030830 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] At present, more than 50% of educational establishments in the south have introduced Russian-language teaching programs. Many provinces and cities boast large numbers of Russian-language students. For instance, Nghia Binh and Phu Khanh have 70,000 students each; Ho Chi Minh City, 47,000; Cuu Long and Dong Thap, 50,000 each, and so forth. These figures represent an average tenfold increase over 1982.

In Ho Chi Minh City in particular, more than 50 clubs, cultural houses, colleges, evening language centers offer regular Russian classes to 10,000 cadres, workers, civil servants, and students.

Regulation on Organization of Lawyers Reported

BK290511 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Office of the National Assembly and Council of Ministers held a news conference this morning, 28 December, in Hanoi to make public a regulation on the organization of lawyers. At the news conference, Comrade Phan Hien, minister of justice, expounded on the goal, significance, and contents of the regulation on the organization of lawyers.

The regulation on the organization of lawyers, which comprises 6 chapters totaling 26 articles, defines the organization, duties, rights, and remunerative system of lawyers. The promulgation of the regulation will contribute to protecting the socialist legal system, intensifying socialist socioeconomic management according to law, protecting the rights and interests of citizens and organizations, objectively and legally resolving court cases,

realizing the right to equal treatment of all citizens before the law, and educating the citizens in abiding by the constitution and the law and respecting the rules of socialist life.

At the news conference, Comrade Phan Hien answered many questions posed by newsmen.

The regulation on the organization of lawyers will be made public through the mass media in the near future.

Population Distribution Conference Held

BK291040 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare held a conference in Ha Nam Ninh Province recently to review tasks on the distribution of labor and population during 1987 and discuss orientations and tasks for 1988. In 1987, about 120,000 workers and 250,000 people have resettled in new economic zones throughout the country, of which 93,996 workers and 195,850 persons resettled in various provinces; while 18,500 workers and 38,480 of their dependents settled at state-run economic zones. Provinces in the Red River Delta have sent people to build economic zones in the Central Highlands. Ha Nam Ninh Province sent 10,441 workers and 22,213 persons to build economic zones in suburban areas, exceeding planned norms for labor and the population distribution by 6 and 5 percent respectively, thus taking the lead in sending people to build new economic zones.

Along with sending people to new economic zones in areas of the Central Highlands and the Mekong River Delta, many provinces have paid attention to distributing labor and the population within their own areas. This is a correct way to obtain good results and save on expenditures. Many provinces have fulfilled and over-fulfilled their planned norms for population distribution. Some Mekong River Delta provinces have spent money, energy, and funds provided by the state to invest in reclaiming virgin land. Nghe Tinh Province has motivated the local people to participate in building water conservancy projects and roads in various new economic zones, and has taken the lead among the central provinces in distributing labor and the population.

With a view to fulfill the 1988 planned norms for distributing 111,600 workers and 243,700 people to new economic zones, various provinces and cities should satisfactorily formulate plans and measures to resettle them in various production and populated areas. Coordination between localities that send the people out and those that receive the people for resettlement should be strengthened to promptly help the people stabilize their daily life and resume production.

Australia

Hayden Refuses To Comment on Fiji Recognition
BK040858 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, is refusing to comment on possible moves by federal cabinet which could enable Australia to recognize Fiji. A spokesman for the minister says Mr Hayden will not anticipate what federal cabinet is to discuss about Fiji.

A Radio Australia correspondent in Canberra, Michael Cavanagh, reports that the official response follows media speculation that moves are under way which would open the way for Fiji's recognition.

Our correspondent understands that the question of changing the basis of Australia's recognition of countries has been under review for some time. He adds that since the Fiji coup, Mr Hayden is believed to have requested that the review be speeded up.

Fiji

Prime Minister Delivers 1988 New Year Speech
BK010858 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0803 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Fiji's prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, has said the rebuilding of the nation's economy is a major priority of the interim government this year. In a New Year's message to the nation, Ratu Mara said several measures had already been put into effect to deal with the current economic situation and to stimulate the economy and generate employment. Ratu Mara called on the people of Fiji to make 1988 a year of performance and to dedicate their energies toward increasing production and productivity.

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